Ecological and Enactive Perspectives on Language

Date: Wednesday 5 June 2019

Time: 13:00 – 17:00 hours

Room: Polak 3-22

Place: Erasmus University Rotterdam,
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50,
Polak Building, 3rd floor.

*This workshop is organised in connection to the PhD defence of Jasper van den Herik,
which will take place Thursday June 6, 13:30, Senaatszaal, Erasmus University Rotterdam.*

13:00 – 13:05 **Jasper van den Herik – Word of Welcome**

13:05 – 14:05 **Erik Myin – Facing the interface**

Critics of Radical Enactivism (REC) have argued that REC is false, or contains serious gaps because it allegedly cannot make room for how contentful cognition influences contentless cognition. In this presentation, I will address some recent formulations of this worry, and argue that these criticisms are misguided. This will allow me to clarify the REC position regarding the notions of basic and content-involving cognition, and their relation. In particular, I will show how the idea that REC faces a threatening "interface problem" derives from imposing on it a dualistic picture of higher and lower forms of cognition being co-present in cognitive activities. This is not REC's view, but a cognitivist one that it strongly opposes. Indeed, this picture mislocates the place and role of content in the scheme of all things cognitive. I will show why locating content where it belongs really matters, and why REC handles that job adequately.

14:05 – 14:30 Coffee break

14:30 – 15:30 **Erik Rietveld - Situated Normativity in Talking about Talking**

In this talk I will connect Jasper van den Herik's (2019, dissertation) approach to metalinguistic practices of "talking about talking" to our own ecological-enactive work on situated normativity and language. Situated normativity is distinguishing between better and worse action possibilities in the context of a concrete situation (Rietveld, 2008, *Mind*). Situated normativity has both a behavioral and an affective dimension. Situated normativity is in part based on Wittgenstein's (1953 *PI*, 1978 *LA*) descriptions of experienced directed discontent in situations of making architecture and language use. I will discuss some examples of situated normativity in metalinguistic activities and relate that to our human situatedness in a landscape of affordances that includes possibilities for doing things with words, including metalinguistic activities.

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 170:00 **Talbot Taylor - Perceiving language as something we do**

17:00 drinks