



TRAINCREASE NEWSLETTER

HORIZON2020



JAN
2021

1.01 LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT

1.01 KONRAD JOINS THE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

19.01 THE KICK-OFF MEETING

FEB
2021

10.02 ADRIANNA JOINS THE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

11.02 FIRST STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING

26.02 FIRST DELIVERABLE
COMPLETED

Greetings!

Welcome to TRAINCREASE – a Horizon2020 Twinning Project devoted to developing the field of study on abstraction (abstract concepts and words) and to helping the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Warsaw become an active leader in such studies. In the world in which abstract computations seem to govern increasingly large portions of our life, it is good to know which values of our everyday embodied interactions such practices preserve and which might be endangered. Only by a thorough understanding of the processes of abstraction in embodied, situated, and social cognition we can gain such knowledge. We present to you our first Newsletter, a periodic short communication directed to the Partners, Advisory Board, funding agencies and stakeholders of the Traincrease, and to all the present and future friends, collaborators & supporters. You will find here the main events of the Project, the most important organizational details, new developments, and results. As this is the first Newsletter, we devote a bit of space and your time to introduce the Traincrease structure. For the same reason, we will be very curious about your feedback on how to make it better!

STRUCTURE

Steering Committee will be responsible for the strategy and crucial issues, such as changes in plans and restructuring in the case of difficulties in the project realization. It will monitor the overall realization of the project.

Advisory Board consists of world-renowned researchers and successful research leaders in the field. It will assist the Steering Committee in strategic decisions and advise in case of potential problems and conflicts.

Management Team consists of the project coordinator and two project managers working at UNIWARSAW.



PARTNERS



University of Warsaw

At UW, Twinning will engage the Human Interactivity and Language Lab (HILL) and other labs and researchers interested in abstraction at the Faculty of Psychology. UW has expertise in ecological psychology, dynamical systems approach and traditional psycho-linguistics. Key researchers: Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi, Albertyna Paciorek, Grzegorz Krajewski.

Steering Committee member: Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi

Aarhus University

Interacting Minds Centre (IMC): is a transdisciplinary hub at AU bridging research in cognitive science, language sciences, anthropology, philosophy, health, and natural sciences in search for mechanisms of social coordination and reasoning. Key researchers: Kristian Tylén, Andreas Roepstorff, Karsten Olsen.

Steering Committee member: Andreas Roepstorff



Sapienza University of Rome

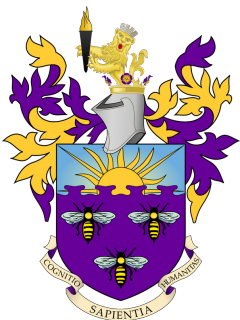
The Sapienza research group with its hub at Body Language Action Lab (BallaB) has extensive experience in research on abstract concepts within the embodied and situated approach. The group contributes expertise in philosophical analyses and research methods in cognitive and social neuroscience. Key researchers: Anna M. Borghi, Francesca Bellagamba.

Steering Committee member: Anna Borghi

University of Manchester

The UoM relizes research in abstract concepts within developmental robotics (Cognitive Robotics Lab) and developmental linguistics (LUCID Centre), with both fields informing each other. The expertise provided is in comutational modeling and early interaction qualitative and quantitative analyses. Key researchers: Angelo Cangelosi, Thea Cameron-Faulkner.

Steering Committee member: Angelo Cangelosi



ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. Terrence Deacon
(UC Berkeley, USA)
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key theorist in the domain of emergence of symbolic communication

Prof. Katharina Rohlfing
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an expert on early language development in interaction, including learning of action words

Prof. Gary Lupyan
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an expert on language-augmented cognition and the role of abstract concepts in the augmenting

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PI of the Social Cognition in Human-Robot Interaction, researcher in social attunement

Prof. Giorgio Metta
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Scientific Director of the IIT, co-creator of iCub the reference platform for research in embodied AI

The Traincrease Partners' Meeting is held on the last Thursday of every month at 2pm.
The Steering Committee's Meeting follows each Partners' meeting.

KICK-OFF MEETING

Our Kick-off meeting was held on January 19th. We were happy to finally get together and get to know each other better, show the collaboration opportunities, and discuss our bright prospects. The Kick-off happened via Zoom and simultaneously was streamed live on YT where our chat was monitored for questions and comments on-line. We were a bit sad that we could not take you all for a stroll in Warsaw and spend more time with you in informal interactions – but, as we say in Poland: “*Co się odwlecze, to nie uciecze!*”. In order to make the Early Stage Researchers (hence ESRs) and others involved in the Project, we decided to open up the first part of the Kick-off meeting and advertised it to our faculties, colleagues, and possible future collaborators. This has proven to be a good move: over 80 people joined on YT, contributing great questions and comments! Adding us, in the Zoom studio, we gathered almost 100 people interested in abstractness studies. After a short intro from Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi (Traincrease PI) and Charles de Chefdebien (REA), each Partner introduced their labs, the on-going projects, the expertise they contribute and the opportunities for collaboration.

Discussions followed, finding points of commonalities and needs for developments. After a break, the closed part of the meeting took place, in which Charles de Chefdebien introduced the terms of our collaboration and the Project rules in a short and very helpful presentation. We had a closing discussion followed by a quick summary and last touches on the upcoming Theory Building Rome Symposium.

KICK-OFF MATERIALS

Watch all the presentations on our [YouTube channel](#) or [check the slides first!](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)
today!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 5th, 16:00 Professor Joanna Jurewicz from the Faculty of Oriental Studies at our HILL lab meeting will speak about abstract concepts in Sanskrit texts! [\[READ MORE\]](#)

March 15th-17th Rome Symposium on Theory Building [\[SEE MORE\]](#)

March 31st Microtwinings First Call

COMING SOON

- Social Media Guide for Traincrease
- Dedicated website
- [BallaB symposium](#)
- Full visual identification for Traincrease

ROME SYMPOSIUM

NEW/FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON ABSTRACT CONCEPTS

Using abstract concepts (e.g. "freedom") is one of the most sophisticated abilities humans possess. In this conference, some of the leading scientists in the field will propose novel perspectives on abstract concepts: their acquisition, representation, and use. Spread the news about our first theory building conference!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO AND DETAILED PROGRAMME!](#)



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

15-17 MARCH 2021

Traincrease Newsletter is prepared and distributed by The Management Team at UNIWARSAW. Please [contact us](#) if you don't want to receive this Newsletter in the future.

Feel free to contact us at:
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or
any of the Traincrease-dedicated social media channels:

