

TRAINCREASE NEWSLETTER

HORIZON2020



January
2022

- Jan 8th: Borys J. visits Sapienza (research visit)
- Jan 21st: seminar with Anne Fausto-Sterling
- Partners meet new PO
- Jan 31st: Wiktor R. visits UoM (research visit)

February
2022

- Feb 4th: Bonsai Workshop
- Feb 25th: seminar & workshop with Bartosz Mroczkowski
- Feb 26-27th: Prototyping Workshop

March
2022

- March 16th: Submission of the SALC Special Topic Session
- March 17th: seminar with Damian Kelty-Stephen
- March 31st: Call for Microtwinings: Methods Integration (D2.2)


Greetings!

Traincrease has entered its second year. The first months of the year 2022 were mostly devoted to the work on integrating research methodologies for the study of abstract concepts and words in interaction, which meant extensive preparations for the Warsaw and Rome workshops (April and May).

As you all know, it was not an easy time for us. We were, and still are, shattered by the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Poland continues to be deeply involved in various helping initiatives directed toward the brave Ukrainian Nation and the people who came to our country. Many of the members of HILL UW became hosts to the Ukrainian refugees. The Faculty of Psychology initiated numerous actions to send help to Ukraine, to help the Ukrainian students, volunteers and UW students and staff in those difficult moments. We feel though that we are still not doing enough... Nevertheless, we were also able to do our academic work, and at times these glimpses of normality were what kept us sane and calmed us down.

We managed to have several world-class scientists visiting HILL for on-line events (some of them gathering as many as 60 participants!). Our lab members enjoyed their research visits to Rome and Manchester. We continued the work on the Special Issue of Philosophical Transactions and our lab's webpage. We also submitted the first Special Topic Session from our theoretical and experimental work in TRAINCREASE for the conference of the Scandinavian Association for Language and Cognition! Please read on for details.

HILL seminars

We started 2022 with a 

During recent Human Interactivity & Language Lab (HILL UW) seminars, our Guests were Prof. Anne Fausto-Sterling, Dr. Damian Kelty-Stephen, both researching the dynamics of gender identity emergence via movement & touch using dynamical methods, and Dr. Bartosz Mroczkowski, inspiring us to shift our attention back to our bodies and how our cognition depends on them.

Dr. Mroczkowski's lecture was followed by a hands-on (and breathe-in) workshop.

Videos will be soon available on the [HILL's YouTube Channel:](#)



Human Interactivity
and Language Lab

To read more about the lectures,
please check
HILL UW's website:

hill.psych.uw.edu.pl/meetings

Following up on topics introduced by Prof. Fausto-Sterling and Dr. Damian Kelty-Stephen, Prof. Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi, Ewa Nagórska (both UW), and Dr. Claudia Mazzuca (La Sapienza) plan on forming a Microtwinning focusing on gender as an abstract concept; **if you want to join them, please let us know!**

Microtwinning Call #2: Methods

TRAINCREASE MICROTWINNINGS

HORIZON2020

The Call is out!

We posted our second call for Microtwinning with the deadline extended until **June, 15th**, to allow for the projects inspired by the May Rome Workshop.

Under the supervision of **Prof. Angelo Cangelosi**, we identified key challenges for the integration of methods in the study of abstract concepts and words and applying them to research on human-AI interaction.

This was also our Deliverable, which we uploaded on March 31st. We are waiting eagerly for new microtwinning!

FIND ALL THE DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#)

One of our Partners, **Kristian Tylén**, has received a Consolidator grant “The Early Evolution of Symbolic Behavior” for research related to the role for sociality in abstract thinking

Congratulations, Kristian!

Great News!

ESR Research Visit #1

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Who: Wiktor Rorot

Where: UW → University of Manchester

When: March 6th to March 20

Microtwinning project:
Investigating possibilities of egocentric sensorimotor grounding of spatial concepts in robotics



Wiktor Rorot @WiktorRorot · Mar 18

Lazy day of my visit @corolab_UoM!!! Immensely enjoyed the stay and the lab, I'm leaving far too soon :(

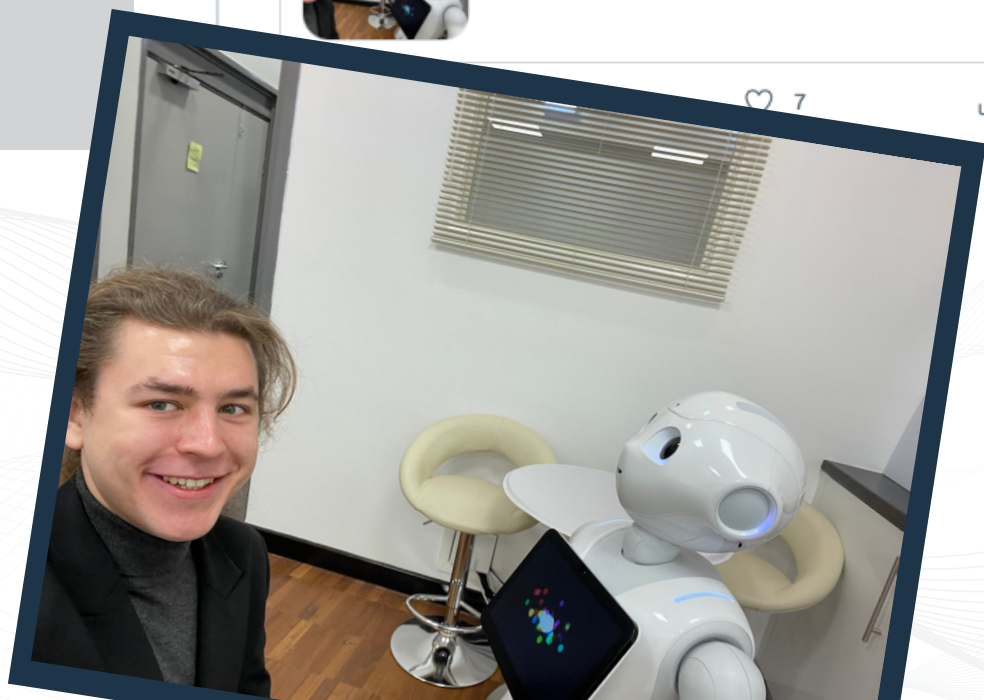


Wiktor Rorot @WiktorRorot · Mar 9



Pepper and I say hi from @corolab_UoM! Quick visit as part of @traincrease @uw_hill to explore the role of spatial concepts in abstract embodied thinking 🤖

♡ 7



ESR Research Visit #2

Who: Borys Jastrzębski

Where: UW → Sapienza
University of Rome

When: January 8th to
February 24th

Microtwinning project:
*Multimodal symbol
grounding in comparative
and historical perspective:
(meta)theorising the
evidence from lexicons*

'This winter I stayed with the researchers at the Body Action Language Lab at University of Rome, Sapienza for two months of intensive collaboration. Most of the work was aimed at integrating my research project realised in the microgrant "Multimodal symbol grounding in comparative and historical perspective: (meta)theorising the evidence from lexicons" with the projects currently developed within the BALLAB's main strand of research.

Our most significant output in that time was the preparation of a detailed study design and a set of tools for the purpose of an international, multi-language norming study with modularity and extensibility in mind. We contacted other researchers in Italy and across Europe in order to facilitate the data gathering phase of the project which is just about to begin.'



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Do contact us at

borys.jastrzebski@uw.edu.pl

**if you would like to participate or to coordinate the national chapter
of E-normus in your country!**

Welcome aboard!

On 27th January, we had the pleasure to personally meet our new Project Officer, **Dr Vsevolod Samokhvalov**. During the meeting with Partners, all parties had a unique chance to talk in person, ask important questions, and lay the ground for the future cooperation. We are very optimistic about this partnership!

This time, our PO is a scientist for whom the struggles of eastern developing countries are anything but new. Dr Samokhvalov has extensively written on political developments in the post-Soviet space, Russia-EU relations in the Balkans, and the Black Sea region.

He also brought to our attention a newly published report on the Horizon initiative itself. Great material for everyone who's considering a grant of their own. It's an interesting studium of the Horizon program itself, success cases, and the possibilities it brings to the beneficiaries. Read more here:

***Spreading excellence and widening
participation impact report
H2020 results and outlook to Horizon Europe***

'The Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation (SEWP) Impact Report aims at capturing the key impacts of Widening projects throughout Horizon 2020 [...] It is a unique report offering a complete overview of various aspects, results and impacts emerging from H2020 actions and is intended to make a valuable contribution not only for future programming activities and policy making, but also for a better understanding of the overall Widening context and emerging trends.'

Warsaw is ready!

20-23 April 2022

The beginning of the year was busy with the preparations for our Warsaw workshop on dynamical time-series analyses and movement capture.

Dr. Julian Zubek from HILL UW took charge and made sure that the workshop will be accessible for people with different backgrounds.

We've strived to have the best instructors for the Recurrence Quantification Analyses so we turned to the very inventors of the RQA measures and software packages:

- **Sebastian Wallot** (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg), an expert on Multidimensional Recurrence analyses
- **Moreno Coco** (Roma la Sapienza), a co-author (with Rick Dale) of the R package for RQA.

Apart from this, we asked **Anne Warlaumont** (UCLA), **Michael Richardson** (Macquarie University), and **Rachel Kallen** (Macquarie University) to tell us about their research experience with RQA, and capturing and analysing movement in action and co-action for signs of higher cognitive and emotional processes.

[website](#)

[programme](#)



Touch the science

science communication through art (first local workshops in Warsaw)

One of the Traincrease consortium goals is to communicate our research results to a wider public to popularize the research on abstraction. We have begun to implement the activities, according to the dissemination plan, which includes museum exhibitions, and small events in local high schools. We seek the most engaging and innovative forms of scientific communication, and are fascinated by the possibility to do it through art. More specifically we plan to work on the physical installations that one can touch and directly feel the human-technology interactivity, and the meanings that emerge from our experiences.

These needs led to the formation of the initiative of Sci-Art. A group of several early-stage researchers has come up with an idea to organize a series of workshops that would give them the tools and methods to efficiently and convincingly promote science through art. In the period between February and April 2022, three small workshops took place already (Bonsai, Arduino & Prototyping), and several artistic installations were created during weekly meetings (see the next page).

We are excited to announce that the first results will be presented to the Consortium Partners during the workshop in Warsaw! The Sci-Art is open for collaboration and suggestions for the further development of pieces of interactive art. Below - some images from the workshops showing the first early prototypes of installation and the group of motivated young researchers.



SCI ⇄ ART

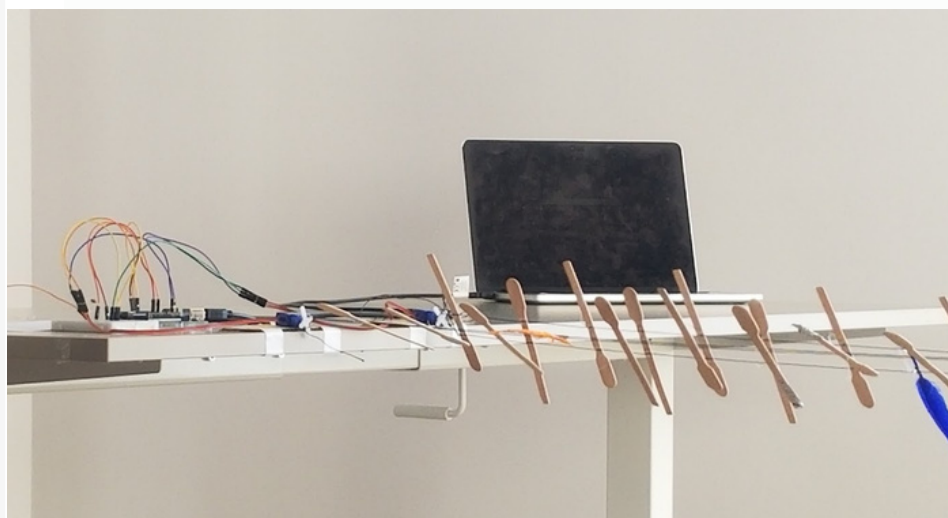
Sci-Art Workshops at HILL

During the intense first weeks of the initiative, we organized 3 workshops!

We learnt Bonsai – an open source tool, which lets users quickly and easily create programmes that track moving objects or dim the light or play sounds when the object moves.

We made our first prototyping sessions and started to design first 3 art pieces. You could experience the these firstwhile livising HILL!

We had implemented the emergent pattern our of neuron-like Arduino activated sensitive light bulb (below)



Special Topic Session accepted at SALC!

During The 8th Conference of the Scandinavian Association for Language and Cognition (SALC), August 17-19th in Turku, several Traincrease members will present their talks during a session titled "*The role of social interaction in abstract concept formation and abstract words use*".

We aim to contribute to the development of the common ground between embodied interactions and the area of studies on abstract concepts by presenting research on the role of social factors in their emergence.

**Congratulations to all the authors of the talks
and see you in Turku!**

See the list of accepted talks below; more abstracts from Traincrease were submitted as regular submissions (results soon!).



Wanna read more about
the SALC conference?

[HERE](#)

Accepted talks:

Urszula Kuczma, Kristian Tylén & Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi
(Aarhus University, University of Warsaw)
Abstraction in divergent thinking

Bodo Winter (University of Birmingham)
*Do abstract concepts have to be grounded in anything other
than language?*

Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi & Julian Zubek
(University of Warsaw)
*Ecological and enactive take of concepts as built on relations
in a social environment*

Borys Jastrzębski (University of Warsaw)
Modeling abstractness as a topological feature

Kristian Tylén (Aarhus University)
Dialogue and abstraction

Ewa Nagórska, Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi, Claudia Mazzuca,
Anne Fausto-Sterling
(University of Warsaw, Roma La Sapienza, Brown University)
*Embodying gender/sex in interaction dynamics: patterns of early
speech and vocalization by mothers and infants*



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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.

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or

any of the Traincrease-dedicated social media channels:



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