

Call for papers/invitation to attend

**Informal, unstated and vital:
A cross-disciplinary workshop on creative ideas generation in
distributed cognitive systems**

In the process of creating works of art or scholarship, there are many actions that artists and scholars explicitly undertake. We shoot the film, we review the literature, we publish, perform, or present, and many great works and ideas come to life. This workshop considers the activities and interactions that are not explicit. We are asking about the implicit actions, unrecorded conversations and collaborations of minds and bodies with each other and with tools. The inquiry is into the in-between spaces of creativity, where ideas are generated and problems solved in responsive actions such as editing and dramaturgy, in improvisations, in contending with restrictions, or through the raised eyebrow that re-directs efforts. The workshop's framework is the distributed cognition thesis which proposes that: "many of our cognitive states and processes are hybrids, unevenly distributed across biological and non-biological realms... The realm of the mental can spread across the physical, social, and cultural environments as well as bodies and brains." (Sutton 2010). Within this model, we are asking about the influential and pervasive role of the informal and unstated. Where and when does it slip in, what are the ecologies that allow it to flourish in different circumstances? Could these be understood as distributed cognitive systems? If so, how are ideas generated within them?

Speakers include:

- Prof. John Sutton, Macquarie University, whose work on memory, expertise and cognitive history frames the inquiry.
- Workshop convener, Dr Karen Pearlman, Macquarie University, whose work on film editing and feminist film histories is re-framing the creative input of women and editors.
- Senior Research Fellow Julia Vassilieva, Monash University, whose DECRA project on the collaboration of Eisenstein-Vygotsky-Luria is revealing the implicit influence these minds had on each other when generating key ideas about cognition and creativity.

Papers, performances or proposals for somewhat structured conversations are invited on subjects such as (but not limited to):

- Ideas generation and development in long-term partnerships
- Improvisations – planned into or arising during creative process
- Kitchen-table contacts: roles of family, friends and colleagues in arts movements
- Revealing the skills and active incursions of people described as 'muses'
- Structures and ecologies that support implicit interactions
- Collaborations with people or tools where a 'short-hand' develops
- Collisions of disciplines, cultures, or characters that may have influenced works
- Expertise with tools as a distributed cognitive action
- First-hand experiences of ideas generation and informal processes

Workshop Details

April 5th, 2018, 2 to 5pm

10 Hadenfield Road (formerly Y3A) room 142

15 March deadline for proposals/abstracts. Send to Karen.Pearlman@mq.edu.au