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## VII

The THINK conference has always been a celebration of thought and connection. A birthday celebration in fact. We, the friends of this not-so-young-anymore conference meet this year for the seventh time! According to the CDC children at the age of seven can *dress themselves, catch a ball more easily using only their hands, and tie their shoes*. At the age of seven, the THINK conference will provoke new ideas, build ever stronger bridges and make us marvel, laugh and contemplate. It is time to light the candles!

The THINK Team

Claudia  
Daniel  
Santiago  
Suyin  
Simon  
Tobias

# VII THINK *ConSepts* Schedule

Friday			Saturday			Sunday			Monday	Tuesday
		08:30-09:00	Getting Ready	08:30-09:00	Getting Ready	08:30-09:00	Getting Ready	Getting Ready		
		09:00-09:50	Breakfast	09:00-09:50	Breakfast	09:00-09:50	Breakfast			
		10:00-10:40	Andreas Ehrmann - Replicating Biological Complexity	10:00-10:40	Gregor Flock - Propaganda in Concepts, Terms and Expressions	10:00-10:40	THINKing up Projects	Breakfast & Tidying up		
		10:55-11:35	Simon Rella - Perceiving Time in a Heartbeat	10:55-11:35	Raphael Hackl - The Value of Everything	10:55-11:35				
		11:50-12:30	Moritz Kriegleder - Pinky and the Brain	11:50-12:50	Andreas Ehrmann - Questionnaire	11:50-12:50				
		12:30-14:30	Lunch Break	12:50-14:30	Lunch Break	12:50-14:30	Lunch Break			
		14:30-15:00	Activation		Activation		Activation			
16:00	Arrival	15:00-16:00	Chiara - Involvement of Civil Society in Research	15:00-15:40	Daniel Gratzler - Some Words from Outside the Box	15:00-15:40	THINK Projects - Presentations			
17:00	Introduction Games	16:30-	Santi Poveda & Suyin Kuijk - Basic Concepts of BDSM	16:00-	Thomas Zauner - Conceptualizing New Futures	16:00-				
18:00	Opening	18:00		17:30		17:30				
19:00-20:30	Dinner	19:00-20:30	Dinner	19:00-20:30	Dinner	19:00-20:30	Dinner			
	Evening Walk		TittyRPG - Manu & Thomas		TittyRPG - Manu & Thomas		Painting your face for the partay			
			Board Games & Fun		Projects - inspo		Party & Open Mic			

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## Replicating Biological Complexity: Dynamics and Function in Self-Assembly

ANDREAS EHRMANN

Can biology-inspired complexity be obtained without biochemical components? Can we replicate ubiquitous biological processes using only model physical building blocks like DNA-coated colloids that have simple but programmable interactions? The last decades have seen tremendous progress in understanding the self-assembly mechanisms that enable the formation of complex, sub-micron scale structures, but embedding these structures with bio-inspired functional behaviors remains a considerable challenge. Here, we demonstrate a scheme for transferring energy between two colloidal clusters, in analogy to ATP hydrolysis. By coupling the two clusters, we show how the one acting as a receiver catalyzes a structural transition in the one acting as a fuel source, releasing energy that drives the receiver into a higher energy structural state. The coupled system shows a significantly reduced mean-first passage time. This work demonstrates that a fundamental and enabling biological process can be replicated without complex biochemical reactions. In contrast, theories of active matter often focus on the effect of energy consumption, not on the mechanism itself. However, the mechanism is intimately connected to the type of physical phenomena that can result. In a next step, we extend the scheme to convert energy into work by driving a net flux in the receiver, which is not possible in equilibrium and requires a fuel source.

## Perceiving Time in a Heartbeat

SIMON RELLA

It is hard to catch a fly. But why?

Metabolism is thought to set the pace of life; for this reason, several aspects of biological time are known to obey metabolic scaling laws. Organisms that have smaller body sizes are known to have faster metabolic rates, shorter generation times, and require more hours of sleep relative to their body size. These scaling laws also imply a mass-invariance of the number of heartbeats in an organism's lifetime. This lends itself to the question of whether the rate of time perception in organisms scales with body size, such that the passing of time itself or perceived lifetime is the same across all organisms.

- [1] West, G. B., Brown, J. H., Enquist, B. J. (1997). A general model for the origin of allometric scaling laws in biology. *Science*, 276(5309), 122-126.

## **Pinky and the Brain: What We Can Learn from Artificial Intelligence**

MORITZ KRIEGLER

Since the Dartmouth Conference in the 1950s, the possibilities of artificial intelligence and its capacity to explain cognition have been hyped consistently. The analogy of the brain as a logical computing machine has been implemented in many different ways from symbol-manipulating algorithms to artificial neural networks and cognitive robotics. But what did we learn in the last 70 years about biological intelligence? In my talk, I will discuss the different perspectives from artificial intelligence on how the brain works and discuss the things we have learned so far. Or more precisely, what we now know the brain is not.

## **Involvement of Civil Society in Research: Introduction and Methods (Workshop)**

CHIARA CARDELLI

The Covid crisis has shown us in an unprecedented way the potential of open innovation and open science to tackle complex problems. At the same time, the EU and other research funding organisations are increasingly demanding the involvement of stakeholders outside of academia in research projects, especially to address global transdisciplinary challenges such as public health and climate change. In this workshop, also through best practices examples, I will introduce the relevance and importance of involving civil society stakeholders at different steps along the research process, to improve the novelty, efficiency, and societal impact of scientific research. Through interactive games and discussions, participants will then learn and exchange about different methods to involve stakeholders in research.

## **Basic Concepts of BDSM**

SANTIAGO POVEDA & SUYIN KUIJK

Is BDSM inherently violent abuse? Is it true that subs are reenacting trauma? Is it true that doms are dangerous psychopaths who lack all empathy? Is there any research on the topic? Dom(me) or Top? Bottom or Sub? Safewords? After-care? Negotiation? Spanking: do I use my hands, a paddle, a flog? How safe are choking, wax play, nipple clamps, and other contraptions? Is it incest if I want my partner to act like they're a family member during sex? What is Pet play? What does CNC stand for? What are the risks of BDSM practices? Where do I start if I am completely new to the BDSM scene? Aside from doing away with common misconceptions around BDSM practices perpetuated by porn and certain other movies, the idea of this workshopy talk is to introduce real concepts and good practices and frameworks of BDSM. Whatever your current knowledge of BDSM is, if you fancy seeing a 6-foot tall collared man on his knees, don't miss this talk.

- [1] Brown, A., Barker, E. D., Rahman, Q. (2019). A Systematic Scoping Review of the Prevalence, Etiological, Psychological, and Interpersonal Factors Associated with BDSM. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 57(6), 781–811.
- [2] Dunkley, C. R., Brotto, L. A. (2018). Clinical Considerations in Treating BDSM Practitioners: A Review. *Journal of Sex Marital Therapy*, 44(7), 701–712.
- [3] Eastman-Mueller, H., Oswald, S. B., Nevers, J. M. (2021). Sexual diversity on college campuses: using a BDSM framework to discuss consent. *Journal of American College Health*, 1–5.
- [4] Jansen, K. L., Fried, A. L., Chamberlain, J. (2021). An Examination of Empathy and Interpersonal Dominance in BDSM Practitioners. *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*, 18(3), 549–555.
- [5] Jozifkova, E. (2013). Consensual Sadomasochistic Sex (BDSM): The Roots, the Risks, and the Distinctions Between BDSM and Violence. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 15(9).
- [6] Schori, A., Jackowski, C., Schön, C. A. (2021). How safe is BDSM? A literature review on fatal outcome in BDSM play. *International Journal of Legal Medicine*, 136(1), 287–295.
- [7] Simula, B. L. (2019). Pleasure, power, and pain: A review of the literature on the experiences of BDSM participants. *Sociology Compass*, 13(3), e12668.
- [8] Wismeijer, A. A., van Assen, M. A. (2013). Psychological Characteristics of BDSM Practitioners. *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*, 10(8), 1943–1952.

## Propaganda in Concepts, Terms and Expressions

GREGOR FLOCK

George Orwell famously coined the phrases WAR IS PEACE, FREEDOM IS SLAVERY, IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH in his dystopian novel 1984. In this talk, I will analyze such an Orwellian perversion of concepts, terms and expressions for political propaganda and other 1 %-related purposes that has become common in our contemporary world. I will begin with an examination of the Orwellian concepts or practices of newspeak, thoughtcrime, the B vocabulary, doublethink, goodthink, badthink, oldthink. I will then go through many examples, including an article by the journalist Robert Fisk (2010) and plenty of social media posts by other critical thinkers, which highlight how such a fundamentally Orwellian and “epistemically violent” perversion of concepts is happening in our own world. The purpose of this is to help others become more aware of and more resistant to especially Western propaganda which starts not with false sentences but already with a more elementary Orwellian perversion of concepts, terms and expressions.

[1] Orwell, George, 1948, 1984. Look up the abovementioned seven concepts. Fisk, Robert, 2010, “Journalism and ‘the words of power’”

## The Value of Everything

RAPHAEL HACKL

Adam Smith made it famous, even though the core problem had been discussed in various forms throughout the last 2300 years - the paradox of value. Smith wondered, how water, vital for every single human, can have so little market value compared to diamonds.

The assumption that value is something objectively deducible, something ontologically inherent to commodities, stands at the core of Marxists economics. The idea of value as a purely subjective construct – i.e. nothing has inherent value, but value is solely hold in the beholder’s eyes – is at the core of the marginal revolution in the late 19th century, which forms the theoretical building block of neo-classical economics, the predominant doctrine in every western economics department.

As scientists with aspirations of critical societal discourse, it seems to be worthwhile to reflect on some paradigmatic assumptions in this major theoretical debate in the philosophy of economics.

Is there an argument against the a priori of subjectivist value theory, or is this battle to be given up by the left? Or does one even have to hold onto this antiquated Marxist economics, in order to push for a progressive economic framework in a society? Those and other questions is what my talk tries to stimulate at this year’s Think.

## Questionnaire on Our Relations to Diverse Topics - A Continuation (Workshop)

ANDREAS EHRMANN

What are you missing for happiness? Are you convinced of your self-criticism? Can you think without hope? What are you grateful for? Are you afraid of death and if so since what age? Stimulated by Max Frisch's questionnaires on diverse topics such as the preservation of mankind, hope, humor, friendship, and death, published in his second diary [1] and later separately in [2], we will begin the workshop by going through a subset of his intriguing questions, aiming for reflections and stimulating discussions. Then, we will move on towards questions at the interface of science and philosophy, specifically the notion of free will and advances in neuroscience, scientific realism, as well as relationships and identity.

This workshop aims to offer participants the opportunity for stimulating (self-)reflections, enriching discussions, and thinking about our relations to diverse topics. The audience will be divided in small groups at the beginning for reflections and discussion on the first part, which is followed by reports to the whole audience and discussions, also about the meaning of these questions. Then, we will move on to questions considering other topics, which will be discussed in the audience. Every participant will also have the possibility to contribute own questions.

- [1] Max Frisch, *Tagebuch 1966–1971*, Suhrkamp Verlag, 1st edition (1979).
- [2] Max Frisch, *Fragebogen*, Suhrkamp Verlag, 19th edition (1998).

## Some Words from Outside the Box: Speculations about the Role of Cultural Diversity in Generating Insight

DANIEL GRATZER

Insight – defined in psychology as a sudden understanding of a problem that aids the solving of it – often involves seeing the problem and its solution in a new way. In the same manner, a common reason for people failing to solve problems is their inability to change the way they view it, which involves psychological phenomena such as negative transfer and functional fixedness. Solving complex problems thus often requires a change in how we view them [1].

This change in view encompasses culture as a phenomenon of knowledge-transfer and sense-making. On this basis, I will present a few perspectives on how intercultural exchange can support problem solving. [2] As the third part of my talk, I will present a few crucial concepts from Tibetan Buddhist philosophy [3] and practice and explore with their example different ways of viewing the world and how they can be found through contact with other traditions of thought than our Western European one.

- [1] Sternberg, R. J., Sternberg, K. (2011). *Cognitive Psychology* 6th. Cengage Learning, (4), 137.
- [2] Puchner, M. (2022). *Literature for a Changing Planet*. Princeton University Press.
- [3] Mathes, Klaus-Dieter (2016b). "A Fine Blend of Mahaa-mudraa and Madhyamaka." Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. 2016/58, S-27/VI/209.

## Conceptualizing New Futures

THOMAS ZAUNER

The future is here. Not just in the sense of the saying that it is already here yet unevenly distributed, but also in our thinking of what to do right here and now. Looking at the IPCC report on the climate crisis, rapid developments in artificial intelligence and its many promises, and the great societal inequalities that steer us into crisis, I want to use this workshop to prompt the participants to think about new concepts for different futures. Based on my previous workshop at the THINK forward conference and originally inspired by Peter Frase [1], Shalev Moran [2], and Steve Lambert [3], I will prompt the participants to think about concepts affecting the future of our society. Each group of participants will lay out two different concepts on a structured grid creating four quadrants possibilities each containing a future. As a next step, they will set an approximate date for when each future happens and backtrack its development to the present day. This exercise in imagination is designed to open our thinking to new possibilities and scenarios. While being an iteration of a previous workshop of mine, new participants and a new global situation will produce new and interesting results.

- [1] Peter Frase, Four Futures, <http://www.peterfrase.com/>
- [2] Mushon Zer Aviv, Speculative Tourism, <https://www.shalevmoran.com/speculativetourism>
- [3] Steve Lambert, Building Fearless Futures, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeLq7aMVOPA>

