

Embodied and Situated Cognition: from Phenomenology to Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence

ENACTION, SENSE-MAKING AND EMOTION

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The theory of autopoiesis is central to the enactive approach. Recent works emphasize that the theory of autopoiesis is a theory of sense-making in living systems, i.e. of how living systems produce and consume meaning. In my talk I will first illustrate (some aspects of) these recent works, and interpret their notion of sense-making as a bodily cognitive-emotional form of understanding. Then I will turn to modern emotion science, and I will illustrate its tendency to over-intellectualize our capacity to evaluate and understand. I will show that this over-intellectualization goes hand in hand with the rejection of the idea that the body is a vehicle of meaning. I will explain why I think that this over-intellectualization is problematic, and try to reconceptualize the notion of evaluation in emotion theory in a way that is consistent and continuous with the autopoietic notion of sense-making.