

IS1404 E-READ: Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitization

Position paper

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WG(s): WG 3 Experiential and emotional aspects of reading

WG 2 Developmental aspects of reading

1. **Potential research contribution** in light of, or linked to

A. WG interest and scientific programme:

In 2009, at the University of Catania, my colleague o. Prof. Grazia Pulvirenti and I have created an international multidisciplinary research-platform (www.neurohumanitiestudies.eu) with a prestigious Board of Directors, in order to share knowledge and to develop transdisciplinary projects.

Collaborating with other research institutes (like the Italian National Centre of Research - CNR) and no-profit Association “Ingresso Libero” (focused on learning through arts), our research group is working on the “imagination spectrum” in visual art, literature and performative arts, both in theoretical and pragmatic way. In order to enhance this transdisciplinary research aim, the University of Catania has restored and reopened an old theatre, now property of the University, *Teatro Machiavelli*, where the NeuroHumanitieStudies research group has developed many laboratory works (<http://www.neurohumanitiestudies.eu/the-lab/machiavelli-theatre/>).

Focus of our research is the imaginative process elicited by particular forms of artistic experiences. As far as imagination is concerned, we believe that any form of mental imagery is based on the kinesthesia of the living body: imagination is physiologically based. One of the projects included in the programme of the research group is dedicated to examining the imaginative processes triggered by reading, particularly by reading literary texts. Therefore I’m very interested in **WG 3 Experiential and emotional aspects of reading**. In fact, a specific section of our work on imagination will be dedicated to analysing and testing the difference in the emotive response by reading printed or digital texts. The research will be conducted together with some researchers from the Italian CNR Institute and some experiments will involve students and actors of the ArtLab at the Machiavelli Theatre in Catania. On the other hand, working as active member of the scientific board of ArtLab (the University’s Laboratory dedicated to developing strategies of “learning through arts”) implies a specific interest for the **WG2: Developmental aspects of reading**. We are particularly interested in testing the possible improvement of language and metaphorical skills by reading literary texts both in printed and digital version.

B. Action objectives (pages 7-10 in the MoU):

In accordance to the shared aim of analysing the different features of reading on paper and screen and the different emotional and learning response, we are particularly interested in following secondary objectives listed in the MoU:

- to study the optimization of text/content/and form design for digital publishing. We aim at

testing the possibilities of improving the emotional response and the memorization processes by screen reading;

- to boost international collaborations and interdisciplinary research transcending established boundaries between scientific disciplines and humanities. Therefore we will put all the contents and the potentialities of our website (www.neurohumanitiestudies.eu) at the COST e-read network disposal in order to facilitate the sharing of research results and knowledge not only at European level;

- we aim to promote joint scientific interdisciplinary publications by inviting the members of the COST e-read network to submit their proposals to the NeuroHumanitieStudies book row edited (in English) by “Duetredue Edizioni srl” – Italy;

- we are also willing to facilitate the exchange of young researcher and to provide a location for scientific meetings and workshops opening our Theatre-laboratory and our university building at the ancient Monastery in Catania to the WG’s of the e-read network.

2. I’m interested:

A. Either in organizing and/or participating in a short-term scientific mission (STSM) of the participants **of the WG 2 and 3** of the Cost e-read network.

B. In organizing a theoretical **Training School** based on ancient rhetoric and the importance of speech figures in screen based reading processes.

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