ELSC-ICNC Seminar: Kevin O'Regan

February 17, 2011

Why red doesn't sound like a bell: the sensorimotor approach, with computational and empirical applications

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On the topic of:

Why red doesn't sound like a bell: the sensorimotor approach, with computational and empirical applications

ELSC-ICNC lecture hall (Silverman Bldg., Wing 3, 6th floor - Edmond J. Safra Campus)
February 17, 2011, at 17:00

Abstract:
Why does red look red, rather than looking green, or rather than sounding like a bell? Indeed why does red have a feel at all? Why do pains hurt instead of just provoking avoidance reactions?
The "sensorimotor" approach provides a way of answering these questions by appealing to the idea that feels like red and pain should not be considered as things that are generated in the brain, but rather as things that we do. I shall show how this a priori counter-intuitive idea gives rise to successful computational models and/or empirical predictions about space and color perception and sensory substitution. In addition to helping understand human consciousness, the approach has applications in virtual reality and in robotics.

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