PNP Seminar: Ecological and Enactive Perception.

Overview
Many theories of perception have analysed perceptual processing in isolation from ecological context and without reference to the body of the perceiving organism, and its motor activity. Some recent theories – which have received much attention in philosophy and cognitive science – have argued that both ecology and embodiment have a determining role to play in our understanding of perception and, as some have argued, that perception cannot rightly be separated from action. This course will examine the case for the ecological, embodied and active approach to perception, also looking at some of the criticisms raised against it. Particular attention will be paid to visual perception and readings will be drawn from philosophy, psychology and the neurosciences.

Classes
There will be 28 classes, beginning on 27 August 2008. Classes will be at 4.00-5.30, Mondays and Wednesdays (excluding holidays 9/1 and 11/26)

Assessment
The overall grade for the seminar will be based on the following three components:
1) Class presentation (30%). Students will be graded on their presentation skills and ability to communicate complex ideas, as well as according to purely philosophical criteria.
2) Midterm paper (30%). Due on 13 October
3) Final paper (40%). Due on 8 December

Background: What is the "classical" view of perception and cognition?

27 Aug
D. Marr Vision (W.H. Freeman & co. 1982) "General introduction" (pp.3-7); "The philosophy and the approach" (pp. 8-38)

3 Sept
Introducing the embedded and embodied mind

8 Sept
J. Haugeland “Mind Embodied and Embedded”

10 Sept
Chap. 6

Action and Perception

15 Sept
Synthese 129:3-40

17 Sept

The enactive theory

22 Sept

24 Sept
Commentaries and replies on O’Regan and Noë (2001) BBS 24:973-1021

The two visual streams hypothesis

29 Sept

1 Oct
P. Jacob “Grasping and perceiving objects” in Brook and Akins (eds) *Cognition and the Brain* (Cambridge UP 2005)
Representations
6 Oct

8 Oct
Revision and Essay Q&A session

Colour and Consciousness
13 Oct

15 Oct

The Extended Mind
20 Oct
F. Adams and K. Aizawa "The bounds of cognition" Philosophical Psychology 14:43-64

22 Oct

Marr and Externalism
27 Oct

29 Oct

Ecology of Vision
3 Nov
5 Nov
also printed in Royce and Rozeboom (eds) The Psychology of Knowing (Gordon & Breach 1972)

**Natural Vision and Receptive Fields**
10 Nov

12 Nov
N. Rust and J.A. Movshon “In praise of artifice” Nature Neuroscience 2005 8:1647-1650

17 Nov
M. Chirimuuta and I. Gold “The embedded neuron, the enactive field?” forthcoming in Bickle (ed) The Oxford handbook of Philosophy and Neuroscience. (I will make manuscript available)

**Colour, Evolution and Externalism**
19 Nov

24 Nov

1 Dec

3 Dec

**A Unified theory?**
8 Dec