



The myths and mechanics of memory and mental time travel

Start date	11 November 2017	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Professor Nicky Clayton and Mr Clive Wilkins	Course code	1718NDX040

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
For further information on this course, please contact clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Nicky Clayton is the Professor of Comparative Cognition in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge. Nicky is psychologist, ornithologist and dancer. She has written over 280 publications on cognition and ways of thinking in crows and humans (H index=66), and is particularly interested in the processes of thinking with and without words. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2010 and she is also Scientist-in-Residence at Rambert (formerly Ballet Rambert), a position she has held since 2011.

Clive Wilkins is the Artist-in-Residence in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge, a position he has held since 2012. Clive is a writer, fine art painter, and dancer. His paintings have been frequently seen in London Mayfair art galleries. His written work has appeared in print on numerous occasions, most notably in his published work 'The Creatures in the Night', a story written and lavishly illustrated by Wilkins in 2008 and most recently 'The Moustachio Quartet', a series of four novels designed to be read in any order as an intentional exploration of cognition and consciousness.

Nicky and Clive are co-founders of The Captured Thought, which is an arts and science collaboration that explores mental time travel, the subjective experience of thinking and the nature of creativity (<https://thecapturedthought.com>). They have lectured and performed widely in the UK including Tate Modern, Wellcome Collection, British Library, Royal Institution, Contemporary Arts Society, Cheltenham Science Festival and the Hay Festival, Europe. In addition they have taught lectures, workshops and discussions for universities, sixth form colleges and in public venues across the globe~ in Europe, USA, Asia and Australasia.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The Creative Navigator's Compass Lecture
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	The Creative navigator's Compass Workshop
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	The Cognition of Beauty Lecture
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:30	The Cognition of Beauty Workshop
16.30-16.45	Wrap Up: Mental Time Travel Revisited
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

Mental time travel allows us to re-visit our memories and imagine future scenarios. In this day of lectures and co-ordinated workshops the aim is to explore the complex relationships between memory and human experience, integrating evidence from science and the arts.

We aim to provide an integrative approach, combining physical and mental exercises, capitalising on science and the arts.

We will discuss the subjective nature of memory and mental time travel.

The key objective is to demonstrate how memory has evolved primarily for prospection and not as is most commonly presumed for retrospection. Indeed memory is not fixed but when used imaginatively, deliberately moves and shimmers to provide insight into the future that awaits us.

Content:

Suggested plan of the ICE one-day event of lectures and workshops

The Creative Navigator's Compass Lecture. An introduction to memory and mental time travel, highlighting the constraints of our mental processes and why memories are not fixed repositories of the past~ and how we use such faculty to power our creative energies.

The Creative Navigator's Compass Workshop. The Tango Lesson followed by a discussion of the significance of tango to memory and what it tells us about the nature of memory and perspective taking, both physically and mentally.

The Cognition of Beauty Lecture. This lecture emphasizes patterns of thinking, with and without words that play a key role in memory and mental time travel ~ the evolution of which lie at the core of our humanity.

The Cognition of Beauty Workshop. An exploration of the cognitive patterns and organization of memory and creativity reflected in the art of origami.

Wrap up, An Exploration of Mental Time Travel. A final discussion of Le Jetée, the day's activities and how these issues relate to, and further, our understanding of how memory and mental time travel operates.

Presentation of the course:

Lectures with question and answers and class discussion, practical workshops, and problem solving exercises including tango and origami.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

Understand why memory is for the future

Why memory is subjective, why this is great for creativity and how it can be used as a transferable thinking skill

Why it is important to combine science and the arts, and integrate mental and physical exercises to explore memory and mental time travel

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Clayton, N. S. & Wilkins, C. A. P.	(2017). The Creative Navigator's Compass: Memory and Perception~ and how we know which way we are facing. <u>The Psychologist</u> 35, 10-14.	
Clayton, N. S. & Wilkins, C.	(2017). Memory, Mental Time Travel and the Moustachio Quartet. <u>Royal Society Interface Focus</u> , 30, 22-26.	

Wilkins (2015). The Moustachio Quartet. Wind on the Wire Press.

Website addresses

<https://thecapturedthought.com>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 12 September 2017