Dear colleague,

The program of **the International Symposium on Abstract Concepts** is now available.

Abstract concepts are a controversial and widely debated topic, especially within the theoretical discussion about the embodied vs symbolic nature of language and meaning.

Supported by an extensive body of empirical research, the embodied account of cognition argues that cognition (and therefore language) is tightly related to perceptual and motoric experience. However, the Achille heel of the embodied account of cognition is precisely the (still debated) nature, structure, processing, and modeling of abstract concepts. In particular: how does perceptual experience affect our understanding and semantic representation of abstract concepts (idea, theory, argument), which by definition lack perceptual referents?

This topic is investigated from different angles in our symposium, thanks to the special lectures provided by world class computer scientists and cognitive scientists. Join the debate in **Amsterdam, Friday 18th November 2016.**

More info and registration process can be found on the event website:
https://abstractconceptsnet.wordpress.com/

Program

08.45 Registration

09.15 Opening

09.30 Diane Pecher: *Curb your embodiment*

09.50 two questions from designated peers plus replies and 10 minutes questions from the audience

10.15 Friedemann Pulvermueller: *Concrete mechanisms for abstract meaning*

10.35 two questions from designated peers plus replies and 10 minutes questions from the audience

11.00 coffee break with POSTER SESSION 1 (6 posters)

11.30 Gabriella Vigliocco: *Learning and processing abstract concepts: The role of language and the role of emotion*

11.55 two questions from designated peers plus replies and 10 minutes questions from the audience

12.15 Alessandro Lenci: *The emotions of abstracts: A distributional semantic analysis*

12.35 two questions from designated peers plus replies and 10 minutes questions from the audience

13.00 Lunch with POSTER SESSION 2 (14 posters)

14.00 Max Louwerse: *Language statistics explain conceptual processing*

14.20 two questions from designated peers plus replies and 10 minutes questions from the audience

14.45 Gun Semin: *The place of metaphors in the order of things*

15.05 two questions from designated peers plus replies and10 minutes questions from the audience

15.30 coffee break with POSTER SESSION 3 (6 posters)

16.00 Ken McRae: *Situations, perceptual information, and abstract concepts*

16.20 two questions from designated peers plus replies and 10 minutes questions from the audience

16.45 Piek Vossen: *Granularity and identity of event descriptions*

17.05 two questions from designated peers plus replies and 10 minutes questions from the audience

17.10 Final discussion and closing

18.00 Dutch Borrel (wine reception) for all the participants

Poster Presentations

I. Bondarenko - Time domain matrix modeling in cognitive linguistic research.

F. Calzavarini, F. Garbarini, M. Diano, & D. Marconi - Lexical semantic competence and visual imagery.

G. Di Cesare, A. Errante, M. Marchi, & V. Cuccio - Language for action: between re-enactment and prediction.

F. R. Dreyer, & F. Pulvermüller - Love vs. Logic: fMRI dissociations between emotional and non-emotional abstract nouns in leftmotor areas during passive reading.

F. Franzon - Different degrees of abstraction from visual cues in processing concrete nouns.

D. Frassinelli, A. Abrosimova, S. Springorum, E. Kiangia, & S. Schulte im Walde - Spatial meaning shifts in German particle verbs with "auf" and "an".

A. Goldschmidt - Inference to the concrete: Force-inferences in the verb-adverb domain.

M. Homan, & P. Sommerauer - Detecting implicit stereotype bias in natural language .

L. Hustinx, & W. Spooren - How to determine the determinants of abstractness and concreteness?

A. Jelec - Are abstract concepts rooted in bodily mimesis?

L. van Lent, M. Janssen, Lucas de Jong, M. Kuiper, J. van de Laar, C. Swagten, & E. Das - When epidemics become real: An LCM-based analysis of tweets about ebola.

P. Liu, L. Connell, & D. Lynott - Metaphoric concepts' representations are both linguistic and simulated.

C. Mazzuca, & A. Borghi - Abstract concepts and the activation of the hand and mouth effectors.

L. Melnyk - Prototype-based categorization of abstract concepts.

G. Mills, & G. Redeker - Making invisible "trouble" visible: Self-repair increases abstraction in dialogue.

E. Murphy - Acceptability properties of abstract senses in copredication.

A. Panunzi - Metaphor in action: Action verbs and abstract meaning.

L. Pollock - The concreteness effect disappears under conditionsthat should maximise it.

M. Rosenberg - Abstract concepts in development: Spontaneous production of novel word-formation in Swedish child language.

A. Rotaru - Imageability, concreteness, and semantic network structure.

E. Scerrati - A study on abstract concepts with the extrinsic Simon task.

S. Schulte im Walde, & M. Köper - The role of ambiguity and abstractness in multi-modal models of German noun compounds and particle verbs.

E. Smolka, J. Andoni Duñabeitia, & Manuel Carreiras - Is concreteness processed automatically?

S. Springorum, & S. Schulte im Walde - Contextual abstraction of particle meaning in German particle verbs.

Y. Tong, & A. Cienki - How limits can be pushed: Action, metaphor and gesture.

S. Zacharias - The development of abstract scientific concepts in a naturalistic classroom setting.