

Do we need representations ?

Representations as pluridisciplinary research objects

« Representation » - does the word mean anything to you ? Whether openly or implicitly, the concept of representation is commonly used. But do we really know what the word implies? Do we really make proper use of the term? What is the nature of representations? What should their status be? How are they built and how do they evolve? How are they used? Could we do without representations in cognition research? Oral communications and posters will present novel experimental data and theoretical ideas to inform the debates which will be held between plenary sessions. This conference will be held in Lyon from Wednesday 30th May to Friday 1st June 2007 and will be organised around three main themes:

Wednesday 30th May : Building representations

Sub-themes: neuronal substrates, perception, mental images, categorisation, synchrony, binding problem, (computing) implementation, memory...

Thursday 31 May : Evolving representations

Sub-themes: learning, adaptation, theory of mind in children and animals, new concept acquisition (mathematics, physics, psychology), innate or acquired representations, plasticity...

Friday 1st June : Using representations

Sub-themes: recognition, reasoning, decision-making, consciousness, meditation, impairments of consciousness (negligence, autism)...

We are aware that some research fields and disciplines do not explicitly use the concept of “representation”. Researchers from such disciplines are still welcome to contribute to the debates. We believe in the value of pluridisciplinary debates and those who defend the position that the study of cognition does not need the concept of representations are as welcome as proponents of the concept.