

CALL FOR PAPERS

Worlding the Brain 2018:

Tools of Collective Prediction: Music, Art, Literature, Religion

AIAS, 27-29 November 2018

Many cognitive neuroscientists agree on the idea that the brain is organized to predict the world. Basic functions like perception and action, working memory and attention, consciousness and social cognition, imagination and creativity all work in the brain according to principles of probabilistic inference and prediction-error minimization. Humans make idiosyncratic predictions based on prior experience, but such predictions are systematically influenced by culture. Music, art, literature, and religion are examples of tools that align predictions across members of a society, a process, which is crucial for collective action and social cohesion.

The Worlding the Brain conferences were initiated in 2016 by the ASCA Research Group Neuroaesthetics and Neurocultures at the University of Amsterdam. This is the third Worlding the Brain conference. The term “worlding the brain,” refers to the fact that the brain is firmly embedded in a body embedded in a society and culture, and is further embedded in networks of other brains and bodies. The whole idea of predictive processing is that brains and people while navigating in natural and social worlds are also in those worlds, physically, experientially, and existentially. Thus, the brain and its functional and structural properties occur in material, social and cultural contexts. To do this, individuals and groups use cognitive and material tools.

This conference aims to bring together researchers from the humanities, social sciences, and the brain sciences to reflect on how the predictive brain model can improve our understanding of the process of enculturation.

We invite talks and posters from all disciplines involved in this research. Proposers of **presentations** (20 min, with 10 min discussion) or **posters** (594 x 841 [portrait]) should submit an **abstract of approximately 250 words** to research.activities@aias.au.dk. Please indicate whether you want to submit a presentation or a poster and add **brief biographical information** (approximately 100 words) as well as your **contact information**.

The conference is organized by the Religion, Cognition and Culture Research Unit (RCC) together with Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), Interacting Minds Centre (IMC), Center for Music in the Brain (MIB) and School of Culture and Society, Aarhus University.

Deadline for all submissions is 1 September 2018.