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Semiotics and Cognitive Sciences

In this first lecture I will discuss the possible 'dialogue' between the two different disciplines of Semiotic and Cognitive Sciences. While, at a first glance, their reciprocal epistemological perspectives might look very different, if not even opposed, certain interconnections are nevertheless possible in the light of the most recent developments in Cognitive Science. In particular, the recent body of research in Distributed Cognition and External Mind opens up interesting connections with some fundamental semiotic assumptions.

Embodiment and intersubjectivity

In the second lecture I will discuss the notion of embodiment as it has been developed over the last few years both in Semiotics and Cognitive Science, reviewing the different uses of the notion in the literature. Then I will bring together embodiment and intersubjectivity, in order to show how intersubjectivity constructs our sense of the body. Intersubjectivity is here seen primarily as a device to produce and construct meaning: it is through intersubjective co-production of meaning that bodies adjust to each other and to the environment, becoming what they are.