

**METAPHORS
OF THE MIND**
**INFERENCES,
IMAGINATION,
AND SUBLIMATION**

Monday 22 May 2017
Istituto Svizzero di Roma
Event curated by ISR Fellows

Workshop, 9.30 - via Ludovisi 48
Concert by Momus, 19.00 - via Liguria 20

An inter- and transdisciplinary workshop curated by ISR Fellows, involving philosophy, cognitive linguistics, art and music. The event will be held in English. Followed by a live concert by Momus, songwriter and performative artist. This event is a prequel to *Inscape Rooms*, on 23rd of June, the final event of Studio Roma 2016/2017 residency program.

ACADEMIC APPROACH

METAPHORS OF THE MIND: INFERENCES AND IMAGINATION

Right now, your mind is processing this sentence. Yet did your mind literally process that sentence, like a computer does? It seems not. More plausibly, 'processing' is a kind of metaphor here, taken from the domain of computers and applied to the human mind. Our ordinary talk is shot through with such metaphors. Arguably, the same goes for scientific discourse. Is this use of metaphor innocent, even instructive? Or does it distort the reality of the thing we are talking about, the human mind, for instance, or any other topic, for that matter? The present workshop addresses these general questions about the nature and functioning of metaphors by engaging with current debates in philosophy and cognitive linguistics. To begin with, it faces the paradox that many metaphors are not perceived as such (Steen 2008) – 'processing' may be a case in point. Only if they are used deliberately, as in the beginning of this text, do they seem to force the reader to entertain the kind of comparison we deem distinctive of metaphor. What are the theoretical and practical implications of using metaphor deliberately as compared to using them in an unreflective way? Do we need to assume two different modes of interpretation for deliberate and conventional metaphors (Carston 2010)? What role does the imagination play here? Finally, does our ordinary talk about the mind, metaphorical as it is, turn out to be compatible with the rigorous standards of inquiry set by science and philosophy (Toon 2016)?

ARTISTIC APPROACH

SUBLIMATION AS METAPHOR

The psychoanalytical idea of sublimation scatters hidden Easter eggs not just through subjects, but also texts. If, as Freud says, instinct and civilisation are finally incompatible, this hiding or burying action is something we must all perform in order to function. But what happens when the repressed returns? What form does it take? And can this moment be mapped to art, to politics?

Momus was born in Scotland, lives in Japan, and has had parallel careers in songwriting, journalism, speculative fiction and performance art. The Guardian called him "the David Bowie of the art-pop underground" and the New Yorker said: "He lists Rabelais and Martial among his songwriting influences (with a side of Matthew Barney and Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*), and his music – from Brecht to Beck on Moog and simulated harpsichord – is suitably challenging. His songs, by the way, are quite dirty, as might be expected of someone who goes in for *The Decameron*, too."

Metaphors of the Mind: Inferences, Imagination, and Sublimation
Curated by Andreas Heise, Edgars Gluhovs, Giulia Frezza, Andreas Bilstrup Finsen
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Free admission, with limited seats

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Program

- 9.30 am ACADEMIC APPROACH
 METAPHORS OF THE MIND: INFERENCES AND IMAGINATION
 Welcome
 Joëlle Comé (Istituto Svizzero di Roma)
 Introduction
 Andreas Heise (Istituto Svizzero di Roma, Institut Jean Nicod)
- 9.45 am *Metaphor and Cognition*
Intentions, Attention, Awareness and Consciousness
 Gerard Steen (Metaphor Lab Amsterdam)
- 10.45 am *Mind the Metaphor*
Mirror Neurons and the Risk of Science Communication
 Giulia Frezza (Sapienza University of Rome)
- 11.15 am Break
- 11.45 am *Interpreting Metaphor: Inferences and Imagery*
 Robyn Carston (University College London)
- 12.45 am *Metaphysics versus Epistemology of Metaphor*
 Andreas Heise (Istituto Svizzero di Roma, Institut Jean Nicod Paris)
- 1.15 pm Lunch break
- 2.30 pm *Mind as Metaphor*
 Adam Toon (University of Exeter)
- 3.30 pm *Metaphor and Argumentation*
A Case Study of the Computer Metaphor of the Mind
 Andreas Bilstrup Finsen (Metaphor Lab Amsterdam)
- 4.00 pm Break
- 4.15 pm *Round Table*
 Moderator: Marianna Bolognesi (Metaphor Geeks Lab Siena, Metaphor Lab Amsterdam)
- 5.00 pm Break
- 5.30 pm ARTISTIC APPROACH
 SUBLIMATION AS METAPHOR
 Momus (Artist)
- 7.00 pm *Momus in concert*