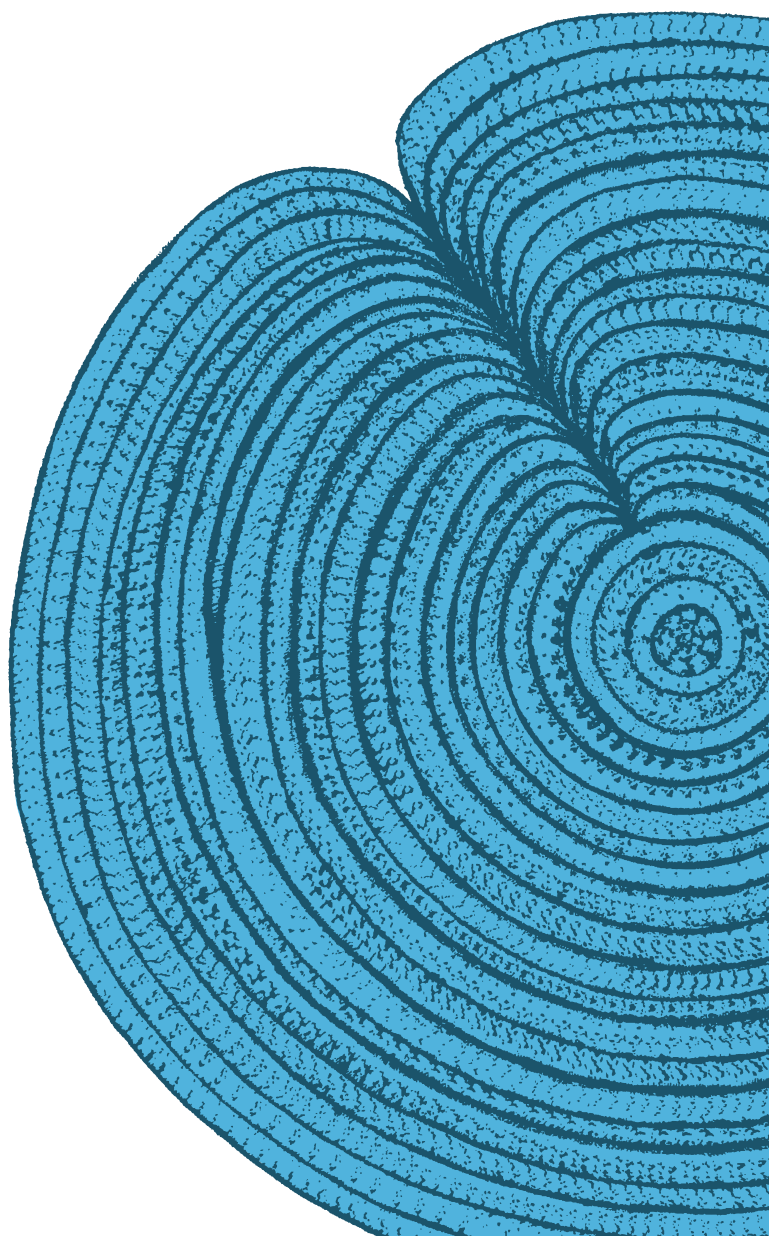




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TSPC2016

Proceedings of the
Trieste Symposium on Perception and Cognition
November 4



edited by
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Carlo Fantoni
Walter Gerbino

EUT

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Preface

This book of proceedings collects the abstracts of talks and posters presented at the *Trieste Symposium on Perception and Cognition 2016*, organized by the Psychology Unit of the Department of Life Sciences, University of Trieste, and held at campus on the 4th of November.

This year TSPC2016 did also include the 24th annual *Kanizsa Lecture*, which has been delivered, as a special event fitting into the long tradition of *Kanizsa Lectures* opened in 1993 by Irvin Rock (see The Kanizsa Lectures list).

The TSPC2016 book of proceedings opens with the abstracts of the 24th Kanizsa Lecture held by the 2016 invited speaker W. Tecumseh Fitch, Department of Cognitive Biology, University of Vienna, Austria.

A second contribution of the TSPC2016 book includes abstracts from the "Roundtable Comparative Perception: A tribute to Professor Mario Zanforlin" (Organizer: Cinzia Chiandetti). The roundtable featured 5 key speakers – Osvaldo Da Pos, Yegor Malashichev, Christian Agrillo, Daniel Osorio, and Meta Virant-Doberlet - in the field of comparative perception and cognition honouring the memory of Professor Mario Zanforlin, who has recently passed away. The invited speakers show that the comparative perspective with which to look at various phenomena that has been Mario's approach will continue to prompt works in the broad fields of perception and cognition. Osvaldo Da Pos, worked on aggressive behaviour and steroid hormones in human and non-human species but later he focused on perception and specifically on colour perception. His main contribution has been the application of the model of transparency to chromatic colours. Within this roundtable, he witnessed the everlasting bond between Padova and Trieste and discussed about the relationship between Stimuli and Context in perception. Yegor Malashichev, works on lateralization and his contribution follows the guidelines of the true European ethological school: observing an organism in its own environment. From

reptiles to whales, from frogs to kangaroos he showed that humans aren't all that unique and claimed about Mother-infant lateral biases in humans and wild animals: conservatism of the phenomenon and its benefits for fitness. Christian Agrillo, after studying biological motion in the chicks, has specialized on numerical representation running experiments with different animal species and recently has started to investigate visual illusion in animals. Christian presented his latest studies in monkeys and fish. Daniel Osorio, studies colour vision and object recognition by observing different animal species from butterflies to primates. He has also investigated symmetry perception in the chick with two influential Mario's students, Lucia Regolin and Giorgio Vallortigara. Daniel is involved in animal welfare and is part of a team writing the guidelines for the use of cephalopods. In his talk, he provides insights on How Cuttlefish see objects. Meta Virant-Doberlet studies vibrational communication in insects. She investigates this intriguing, and unsuspected, signalling trying to respond to all 4 Tinbergen's questions and has presented "A day in a life of a bug linguist".

The third part of the volume collects abstracts of talks and posters presented at regular oral and poster sessions of TSPC2016.

Each abstract published in the proceedings has been evaluated by an anonymous expert reviewer and by the organizers. The list of anonymous reviewers who supported the editorial process is reported in the next section.

About 54 active participants gathered at TSPC2016, coming from Italy and other European countries (Serbia 7, Germany 2, Greece 1, Slovenia 1, Hungary 1). It featured 9 talks and 45 posters. The book of proceedings includes written reports of all talks, and 40 out of 45 posters. Several areas of cognitive science were covered, including: perception (talks 4, 6, 8; posters 4, 5, 17, 24, 27, 29, 36); mindfulness (talk 1); action and perception (talk 6; posters 4, 19, 22, 30, 34); attention (posters 7, 29); memory (talk 3, 7; posters); learning (poster 17); development (posters 14, 23, 25, 31, 33); language (poster 13, 39); problem solving and reasoning (poster 20); personality (posters 11, 18, 25); decision-

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making (poster 20); concepts and categorization (talks 2; poster 4, 16, 33, 38, 39); social cognition (talk 4, 5; posters 6, 9, 40); animal cognition (talk 9; posters 1, 3, 8, 15, 36, 37); neuropsychology (poster 2, 10, 12, 22, 26, 28, 35, 38); rehabilitation (posters 22); developmental disorders (posters 2, 5, 10, 12); applied psychology (poster 7, 21, 28, 30, 32, 34); executive processes: monitoring, inhibitory control (posters 7, 14, 18, 23, 35);

In terms of disciplines, contributions included modelling, behavioral experiments with humans and animals, cognitive neuroscience, linguistics, philosophy, and vision.

We thank all authors who submitted an abstract to be included in the proceedings, and the reviewers who supported the editorial process with their fast and constructive reactions.

Finally, for their institutional and financial support to TSPC2016 we thank the Department of Life Sciences and the PhD program in Neural and Cognitive Sciences of the University of Trieste.

Paolo Bernardis
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organizers and editors

and Cinzia Chiandetti

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Look and Imagine Yourself Giving that Same Touch: The Role of Intergroup Vicarious Physical Contact in Racial Prejudice Revision

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Prejudice reduction has been a core issue in social psychology for many decades. Indeed, research aimed at understanding and defining the ingredients which ameliorate intergroup relations and weaken social exclusion are still under investigation. According to the contact hypothesis [1] positive encounters with out-group members increase in-group favorable attitudes towards those members which further generalize to the out-group as a whole [2]. Unfortunately, direct contact is not always straightforward as different groups tend to ignore each other [3]. Indirect contact strategies (e.g., imagined contact, vicarious contact) have been suggested, to overcome this limitation and ultimately promote positive attitudes towards the out-group [4,5]. Given the major lack of intergroup direct contact, and the encouraging results obtained from indirect forms of contact, investment in new forms of indirect contact is strongly needed.

The present research was guided by recent findings proving that intergroup physical contact, rather than intergroup contact, triggers favorable attitudes towards the out-group [66]. In addition, we focused on the role self-involvement in reducing out-group prejudice, as research has shown that being personally involved in a positive vicarious interaction by identifying with an in-group character positively interacting with an out-group character, ameliorates outgroup attitudes in general [7].

The aim of the current research was to test the effectiveness of a novel form of indirect contact, which specifically focuses on intergroup vicarious physical contact, in ameliorating attitudes towards immigrants. In study 1, participants were either requested to rate the quality of an image depicting a White hand touching a Black hand (i.e., IVPC-low self-involvement), identify with a White hand touching another White hand (i.e; vicarious physical contact; VPC-high self-involvement) or identify with a White hand touching a Black hand (i.e; IVPC-high self-involvement). Study 1 demonstrated that participants who identified with an in-group member touching an out-group rather than an in-group member displayed less implicit out-group prejudice. In addition, experimentally enhancing (vs. reducing) participants' self-involvement in the IVPC, moderated the beneficial effect of IVPC on out-group prejudice. In Study 2 we compared the IVPC to an intergroup vicarious *nonphysical* contact condition (i.e; the same two hands were shown but they were not touching each other), and found that the IVPC triggered lower levels of out-group prejudice, and changed acculturation attitudes accordingly, by enhancing the self-out-group overlap.

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