

The Human Mind Project

Emotion, Memory & the Mind

7-8 July 2016

Brighton



US

University of Sussex

Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science

What we remember, and how we remember it, constitutes the texture of human life. Just as emotions shape our sense of things, including ourselves and other people, so memories shape the sense of who we are and what we have become throughout history. How do memory and emotions contribute to lived experience and the identity of people? Are current approaches across the mind and brain sciences adequate for the task of explaining the complex nature of feelings, sensations, memory and identity? Can we study memory and emotion in other species, are there collective memories, and have our emotional lives changed over time?



A two-day (lunch to lunch) workshop, *Emotion Memory and the Mind* will explore these important, timely, and exciting issues, bringing together a diverse range of thinkers, practitioners, and researchers across a variety of approaches in the arts and sciences. The event is jointly hosted by *The Human Mind Project* (humanmind.ac.uk) and the Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science at the University of Sussex (www.sussex.ac.uk/sackler).

Event Programme

Thursday 7th July 2016

14:00 *Registration and Coffee*

14:15 Opening remarks

Anil Seth

Professor of Cognitive & Computational Neuroscience, University of Sussex;
Co-Director, Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science

Chair: Mattia Gallotti

Research Fellow in Philosophy; Project Manager, *The Human Mind Project*,
School of Advanced Study, University of London

14:30 THE CREATIVE NAVIGATOR'S COMPASS: MEMORY AND PERCEPTION, AND HOW WE KNOW
WHERE WE ARE

Nicola Clayton

Professor of Comparative Cognition, University of Cambridge

Clive Wilkins

Artist in Residence, Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge

15:15 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY AND THE SELF

Catherine Loveday

Principal Lecturer in Psychology, University of Westminster

16:00 *Refreshments*

16:30 A CONVERSATION ON MEMORY AND SELF

Nick Payne

Playwright

Anil Seth

Professor of Cognitive & Computational Neuroscience, University of Sussex;
Co-Director, Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science

17:30 **ROUNDTABLE ON MEMORY**
Discussion

18:00 *End of Day*

19:30 *Dinner, for speakers only*

Friday 8th July 2016

09:00 *Registration and Coffee*

Chair: Shamil Chandaria

Research Fellow, Institute of Philosophy, University of London

9:00 **BODY MEMORY AND AFFECTIVITY**

Giovanna Colombetti

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Exeter

9:45 **ANATOMIZING THE EMOTIONS: THE HUMAN MIND IN HISTORY**

Thomas Dixon

Reader in History, Queen Mary University of London; Director, Centre for the History of the Emotions

10:30 *Refreshments*

11:00 **MASS OBSERVING EMOTION IN POST-WAR BRITAIN**

Claire Langhamer

Professor of Modern British History, University of Sussex

11:45 **ROUNDTABLE ON EMOTION**

Discussion

12:15 **OPEN ROUNDTABLE ON THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH**

Chair: Colin Blakemore

Professor of Neuroscience and Philosophy; Project Leader, *The Human Mind Project*,
School of Advanced Study, University of London

13:00 *Lunch in hotel*

Emotion, Memory and the Mind is jointly organised by **Dr. Mattia Gallotti** (*The Human Mind Project*) and **Prof. Anil Seth** (Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science). We wish to thank **Marianne Cole** (Sussex) and **Anna Hopkins** (London) for their assistance in organising the event. *Dr Sofia Bonicalzi* (*The Human Mind Project*) and *Dr. Jim Parkinson* (Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science) will attend the event as Rapporteurs.

For financial support we are grateful to the **Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation**, which supports the Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science.

Abstract Booklet

THE CREATIVE NAVIGATOR'S COMPASS: MEMORY AND PERCEPTION ~ AND HOW WE KNOW WHERE WE ARE

Nicola Clayton

Professor of Comparative Cognition, University of Cambridge

Clive Wilkins

Artist in Residence, Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge

If we could tell you where you were going and how you could get there, would you want to know?

Imagine a crystal ball that could anticipate the future: would you want to gaze into it, and if you did, what do you think you would see? Would you see yourself looking into it to know your personal future, the futures of your loved ones, or the society of which you are a part, or would you be looking for an overview of the great schema of things? Is it the case that any of these are fundamentally different in the way that they affect our perception of the world? In making an assessment of any future we may perceive, it's all too easy to make the assumption that what we imagine and remember are accurate reflections of reality. Many of our greatest deceptions evolve out of such a faulty supposition.

In essence, the chances are that if we were able to look into the crystal ball we would be unlikely to make any sense of it anyway because our experiences are subjective. This has two consequences. The first is that they can shimmer and change, and be altered by our current point of view. The second is that these alternative realities are constrained by the fact that we don't see all that can be seen, our memories are not an accurate repository of what happened in the past, and our thoughts of the future are often equally inaccurate and ill-conceived because of these constraints on perception and memory.

Nicky and Clive, a scientist and artist respectively, explore the complex relationships between memory, perception and human experience, including through a series of novels 'The Moustachio Quartet' that can be read in any order. Join them for a fascinating interactive presentation that incorporates science, literature, and the performing arts.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY AND THE SELF

Catherine Loveday

Principal Lecturer in Psychology, University of Westminster

Autobiographical memory plays a profound part in our sense of self, the way we view our future and the relationships we have with others. In this talk I will use empirical evidence to demonstrate how memories are distributed across our lifespan and the crucial role they play in shaping our sense of self. I will also use clinical case studies to show what happens when memory becomes disrupted, with a particular focus on CR, a woman who sustained significant brain damage as a

result of encephalitis. The talk will conclude with a discussion about our potentially unique capacity for mental time travel and the psychological relevance of our sense of past, present and future.

A CONVERSATION WITH NICK PAYNE & ANIL SETH: Q&A

Nick Payne

Playwright

Anil Seth

Professor of Cognitive & Computational Neuroscience (Informatics), University of Sussex; Co-Director, Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science

BODY MEMORY AND AFFECTIVITY

Giovanna Colombetti

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Exeter

In the tradition of phenomenology, philosophers like Bergson and Merleau-Ponty talked about the capacity of our *bodies* to remember—a phenomenon called *body memory* in English. I will first illustrate this phenomenon with some examples, and explain its connection to the further phenomenological notions of ‘body schema’, ‘sedimentation’, ‘habit’ and ‘incorporation’. I will then examine how these constructs apply to emotions and other affective states, introducing the notion of *affective style* to capture the fact that many of our affective interactions with the world (with people as well as objects) can be regarded as forms of body memory.

ANATOMIZING THE EMOTIONS: THE HUMAN MIND IN HISTORY

Thomas Dixon

Reader in History, Queen Mary University of London; Director, Centre for the History of the Emotions

In this talk I will survey the history of emotions as a burgeoning field of historical research, making use of several of my own research topics to illustrate the various ways in which a historical perspective can complement a scientific one, and contribute to the study of the human mind. I will do this by thinking about emotions as complex entities that can be pulled apart, or ‘anatomized’, separating out their component parts, each of which has its own history – including language, moral values, bodily expressions, and social norms. Examples will include the history of the term ‘emotion’ itself as a psychological category, the invention of ‘altruism’ as a new scientific and moral idea in the nineteenth century, the changing meaning of tears through modern history, and the experience and expression of anger in different cultures. All of this will be used to suggest that it is not just social attitudes to emotions, or modes of emotional expression, that can change over time, but embodied emotional experiences themselves.

Claire Langhamer

Professor of Modern British History, University of Sussex

This paper has two objectives: one is methodological and the other is empirical. First it explores the issues at stake in accessing feelings in the past. How do historians 'get at' emotion and what feeling-evidence is available to us? Here I am particularly interested in identifying sources that allow access to the feelings of 'ordinary' people and to the messiness of everyday emotional life. I will focus in particular upon the material generated by the British social investigative organization – Mass Observation – in the middle years of the twentieth century. In the second part of the paper I will demonstrate how a small sample of this Mass Observation material – discursive responses to open ended questionnaires sent to a panel of volunteer writers in May and August 1945 – can be used to enhance our understanding of the British transition from war to peace. Specifically I will use Mass Observation sources to illuminate the work that emotion did, and was called upon to do in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. I'm particularly interested in how the interlinked categories of feeling and experience were deployed as ways of *knowing* the world in 1945 - and as grounds for *participating in* an increasingly dynamic public sphere. As Feminist scholars have long noted, 'power circulates through feeling.'¹ This paper forms part of a broader project on 'emotional democracy' in which I want to think about 'ordinary' people's understanding of the status and power of emotion – and of their own position as emotional citizens – within public life after 1945.

¹ Carolyn Pedwell and Anne Whitehead, 'Affecting feminism: questions of feeling in feminist theory', *Feminist Theory* 13:2, 2012, 115-129, 116.

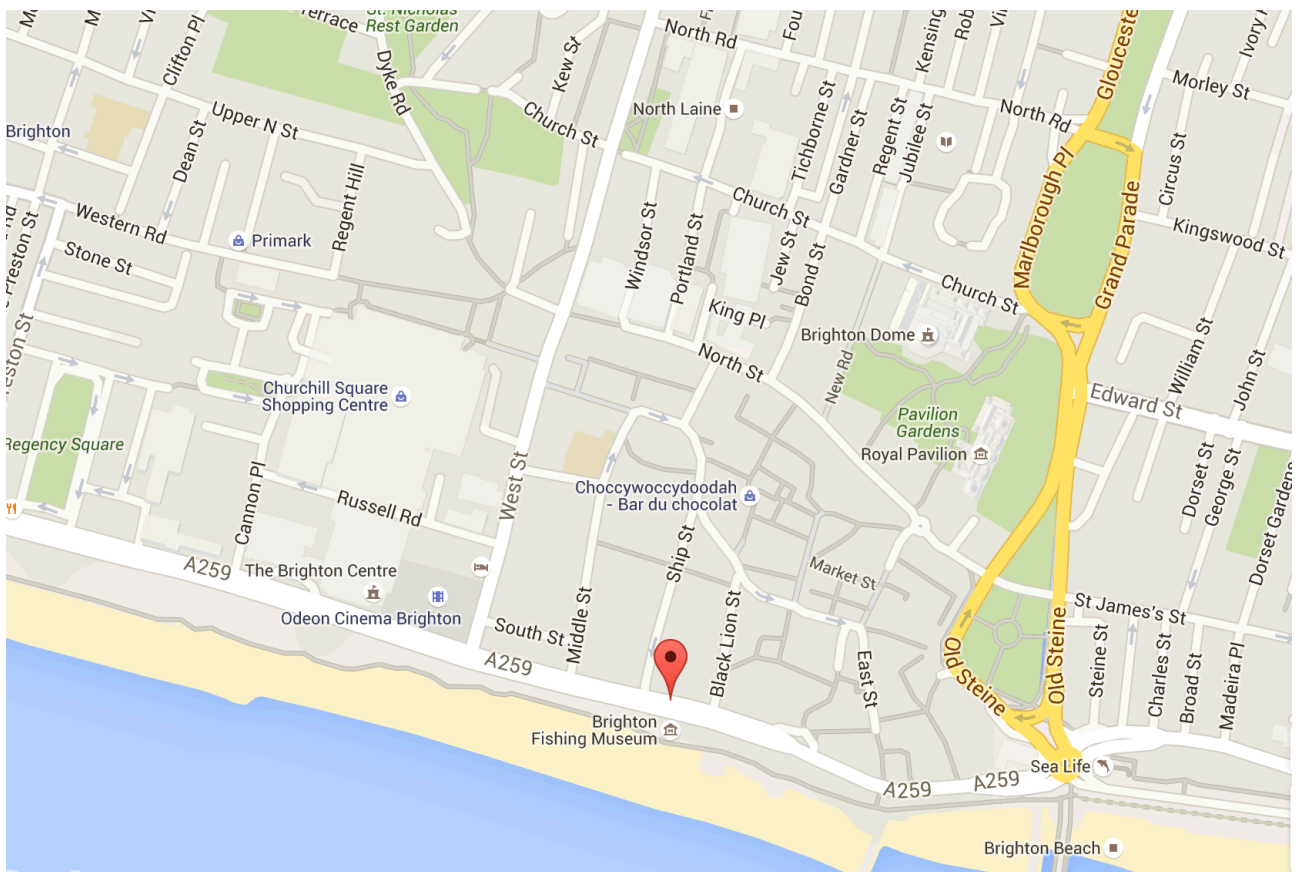
Arrival and Information

Emotion, Memory and the Mind will be held in the Regency Suite at the Old Ship Hotel, on the seafront in Brighton. Please ask at the hotel reception to be directed to the workshop.

The full hotel address as follows:

Old Ship Hotel
Kings Road
Brighton
BN1 1NR

For further information please visit the hotel's website: www.thehotelcollection.co.uk



Where to Eat

There are many places to eat within easy walking distance, both along the seafront and into the Laines. Here are just a few local recommendations:

- Pho (Vietnamese) ££ <http://www.phocafe.co.uk/locations/brighton/>
- Terre a Terre (Vegetarian) ££££ [http://www.terreaterre.co.uk/#_ =](http://www.terreaterre.co.uk/#_=)
- Food for Friends (Vegetarian) £££ [http://www.foodforfriends.com/#_ =](http://www.foodforfriends.com/#_=)
- Indian Summer (Indian) ££££ <http://www.indiansummerbrighton.co.uk/#!/home/mainPage>
- The Bath Arms (British Pub food) £ [http://www.shepherdneame.co.uk/pubs/brighton/bath-arms#_ =](http://www.shepherdneame.co.uk/pubs/brighton/bath-arms#_=)
- The Hop Poles (British pub food) <http://www.hoppoles.pub/>
- Bohemia (European) ££ [http://www.bohemiabrighton.co.uk/#_ =](http://www.bohemiabrighton.co.uk/#_=)
- Moshimo (Japanese) £££ [http://www.moshimo.co.uk/#_ =](http://www.moshimo.co.uk/#_=)
- Street Thai <http://streetthai.co.uk/>
- Giggling Squid (Thai) <http://www.gigglingssquid.com/branches/brighton.html>
- Harry Ramsden's Fish and Chips £ <http://www.harryramsdens.co.uk/england/brighton>