

Cognition, Perception and Consciousness

What is consciousness? How do we perceive something like a color? What are the effects of cognitive biases on our everyday lives?

There are many fields of psychology which are highly interesting for non-psychologists and which are treated in numerous best-selling books. In an interdisciplinary group of students, we will read and discuss a selection of such books (along with some less well-known works) in order to learn more about human cognition, perception and consciousness.

For those of you who have participated in the Summer School in Magliaso in September 2014 and attended the talk by Kevin O'Regan, it is probably obvious that ideas and theories related to cognition, perception and consciousness can be debated fiercely – not only by specialists but also by students from unrelated disciplines. Hence, **students from all fields and at all levels** are encouraged to participate in this book club!

The language of this book club will be **primarily English** (the literature will be in English). The discussions will be held in English and potentially in French and German – based on the principle that everyone may speak in his/her native language.

Why English? Based on the observation that at the events held in English (such as the IT Life Sciences or NMUN) there are many Romans and Ticinesi among the participants, this book club aims at putting students from all language backgrounds on an equal footing.

We will **meet two or three times during the spring semester 2015**, most probably in April and May. Each meeting will fill roughly half a day or an evening and the dates will be determined by the participants. Optionally, we might have a longer meeting during summer 2015 to wrap up the book club.

The meetings will most likely take place **in Lausanne and potentially in Fribourg and/or Bern**. The location(s) can be adapted to the participants, but overall they should be well accessible for people studying in Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchâtel, Fribourg and Bern.

Bibliography:

- Dennett, Daniel C. *Consciousness explained*. Penguin UK, 1993.
- O'Regan, J. Kevin. *Why red doesn't sound like a bell: Understanding the feel of consciousness*. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Treisman, Anne. "Consciousness and perceptual binding." *The unity of consciousness: Binding, integration, and dissociation* (2003): 95-113.
- Kahneman, Daniel. *Thinking, fast and slow*. Macmillan, 2011.
- Dennett, Daniel C. *Intuition pumps and other tools for thinking*. WW Norton & Company, 2014.

This list is tentative – suggestions of the participants are welcome!

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments!