

IPAC Activity Description

Name of Activity

Cognitive Science & Education Study/Discussion Group

Contributor

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Brief Description of the Activity

The Cognitive Science & Education Study/Discussion group exists to provide a vehicle for a small community of individuals interested in phenomena surrounding Cognitive Science and Education to explore ideas and issues that emerge from considerations that lie somewhere within the intersection of these two fields. The essential motivation for the CS&E S/D Group is to give each participant an opportunity to develop their knowledge of cognitive science and its application to learning, teaching, and related matters, by providing a forum which is rich in content and animated by kindred spirits. The Group meets once each month when College is in session. Hosting duties, which include the selection an item of research for the Group to read, study, and discuss, rotates cyclically among the participants. Meetings are highly structured, and artifacts that result from Group meetings are archived on a public Web page.

Interdisciplinary Nature of the Activity

Cognitive science embraces interdisciplinarity as one of its two core values. Education is also highly interdisciplinary in theory and practice. Consequently, there is substantial common ground to explore between the two fields in an effort to produce an enhanced cognitive understandings of education by synthesizing results from the diverse contributing fields of cognitive science. Among the disciplines that will provide methodological perspectives and specific knowledge for integrative explorations are: biology (neuroscience and evolution), psychology (cognitive psychology, evolutionary psychology, sociocultural theory), computer science (artificial intelligence and distributed cognition), anthropology (language and culture).

Relationship to Interdisciplinarity at Oswego

One way in which the Cognitive Science & Education Study/Discussion group relates to interdisciplinarity at Oswego is decompositional in nature. Each individual will bring his or her enhanced understanding of interdisciplinarity, derived from Group

explorations, to bear on his or her own teaching and research. Additionally, at least some of these individuals will serve as visible models of faculty who explicitly incorporate interdisciplinarity into their academic lives. Another way in which the efforts of the Group will impact interdisciplinarity at Oswego is by virtue of the Web archive of Group meetings that will be posted. Since the dual foci of the group, Cognitive Science and Education, are both interdisciplinary in nature, the bits of knowledge that are posted in the Meetings Archive will have an interdisciplinary nature.

These are two small steps in the direction of enriching interdisciplinarity on Campus. But one of the goals of IPAC is to promote small steps such as these, under the assumption that small pockets of interdisciplinarity on our Campus have the potential to coalesce into larger pockets of interdisciplinarity on our Campus.

IPAC Support

IPAC Secretarial services for distribution of materials other aspects of communication.

IPAC Secretarial services for updating the IPAC Web site with minutes of the CS&E S/D group meeting each month.

Use of the IPAC Conference Room once per month.

Relevant Dates

Five semesters: S13, F13, S14, F14, S15