

School meeting

GIOVEDÌ 18 MAGGIO 2017 - Ore 13.00 - Aula 2D – PSICO 2

presenta:

PROF. EMANUELE CASTANO
The New School for Social Research

Watch what you watch: Films and Theory of Mind

Abstract:

This talk explores the role that fiction has on social cognition processes. Published experimental findings from my lab show that Literary Fiction uniquely fosters performance on the Read the Eyes in the Mind (RMET), the Diagnostic Analysis of Non-Verbal Accuracy (DANVA) and the Yoni test -- all measures of Theory of Mind that rely on decoding of facial expressions. After summarizing this research, I will present new evidence that literary fiction also uniquely impact the Moral Judgment Task (MJT), which is also considered a measure of ToM but requires decoding of intentions of actors in hypothetical scenarios verbally described. I will then present experimental results showing that watching Art (vs. Commercial) Films has the same effect than reading Literary (vs. popular) Fiction, namely enhancing performance on both the RMET and the MJT.