

Research group Behavioural and Social Neuroscience - Centre for Neuroscience - Central European Institute of Technology, Masaryk University and Society for Cognitive Science and Philosophy

would like to invite you to lecture

„Loss of inner awareness is related to hyper-correlated brain activity“

14/4/2016

THURSDAY

start 13:00

Seminar room 211 building A35
Kamenice 5, Brno
Entrance from Studentská street

delivered by

Michał Bola

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Abstract:

The “stream of consciousness” we experience is an internal and purely subjective phenomenon. For this reason, we can only infer that others have conscious experience based on their overt behaviour. Particularly, the ability to process stimuli from the environment (connectedness) and to respond in a meaningful and goal-directed way (responsiveness) are considered indicative of covert awareness. Yet, a growing body of evidence suggests that subjective awareness, connectedness, and responsiveness can, in principle, be dissociated. Firstly, although we are unresponsive and disconnected from the external environment during REM sleep, we often experience vivid dreams, which are phenomenally similar to waking consciousness. Secondly, rich hallucinations are also reported after recovery from ketamine-induced unresponsiveness. Thirdly, apparently a significant group of patients considered to be in a vegetative state due to persistent behavioural unresponsiveness, might actually remain conscious.