Call for papers

"Inside out: Assessing the extended mind.
Mind, language and material culture"

University of Catania May 30-31 2016

Organized by Giovanni Camardi, Giovanna Giardina, Nicola Laneri, Marco Mazzone, Simona Todaro, Sebastiano Vecchio

The conference will be held at the University of Catania May 30-31 and aim at discussing and perhaps revising the important concept of the extended mind introduced by Andy Clark and David Chalmers in 1998. In so doing the subject will be confronted using different perspectives (i.e., archaeological, anthropological, philosophical, psychological) that uses the relationship between mind, body, environment and material culture in interpreting aspects of human cognition.

In particular, this conference will focus its attention on epistemological issues such as the extent to which a single ontological notion of extended mind – encompassing both the functions of the brain and its "extensions" – is required, or whether we should rather focus on the complex relationships between the brain, the body, the development of language, the perception of the environment and the creation of objects.

The conference will be divided into 3 panels: (1) mind, consciousness and extended mind, (2) language and cognition, and (3) material culture and cognition. The panels will be introduced by keynote speakers (Stephen Cowley, University of Southern Denmark; Michele Di Francesco, IUSS Pavia; Lambros Malafouris, Keble College Oxford) and then by 3 presenters for each panel. At the end of each panel the discussion will be led by members of the organizing committee.

The conference proceedings will be published in a peer-reviewed publication.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to Marco Mazzone (mazzonem@unict.it) no later than January 31st. The 9 selected papers will be invited to participate to the conference. The organizers will provide all the lunches, dinners and coffee breaks during the conference, but transportation and accommodation will be at the participant's expenses.