

UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

Naturalizing Motor Intentionality

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0m07n9k6>

Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 31(31)

ISSN

1069-7977

Author

Liu, Daniel Hsi-wen

Publication Date

2009

Peer reviewed

Naturalizing Motor Intentionality

Daniel Hsi-wen Liu

Providence University

Abstract: This research argues that the processing of motor activities is content-bearing, and that the motor content is to be understood in a pragmatic sense, a novel sense of content different from the semantic sense of content that visual processing bears. The semantic sense of content is based on Brentanos notion of intentionality, made possible by a standing-for relation. By contrast, the pragmatic sense of content is based on Merleau-Pontys (1962) notion of motor intentionality, according to which motor skills are pre-predicative. This research maintains a philosophical discussion on the basis of Jeannerods (2006) psychological theory of motor cognition and Merleau-Pontys phenomenological notion of motor intentionality. This research argues that motor activities are made available under the purposeful processing with a pre-determined goal. This way of maneuvering motor resources in the light of accomplishing a given goal, is the pragmatic sense in which motor actions are understood as content-bearing.