



DIPARTIMENTO DI PSICOLOGIA

ALLEGATO

Progetto formativo e programma delle attività

Title: “Emotional regulation of action and social space”

Giuseppe di Pellegrino

Introduction

The representation of the space around the body has attracted the ever-growing interest of scholars from cognitive neuroscience to social psychology. Peripersonal space (PPS), or action space, is defined as the sector of space coded by neurons responding to both tactile and visual stimuli near the body, which offers a multisensory interface for body–objects interactions. Yet, in our environment we interact not only with inanimate objects, but also with other people. For example, humans maintain a distance around their bodies, called “interpersonal space” (IPS), any intrusion into which by others may cause discomfort.

The hypothesis motivating this project is that emotion and social interaction can shape PPS and IPS significantly. In this project, a combination of virtual reality settings, and psychophysiological and brain stimulation methods will be used to study the dependency of PPS and IPS on emotion and social interaction and to verify the role of bodily and facial expressions in regulating the distance we maintain from others.

Planning of activities:

- Literature review: deepen relevant theoretical knowledge.
- Study design: define the experimental paradigm, pilot and refine it as needed, pre-register it.
- Data collection: recruit participants and collect data.
- Data analysis: analyze psychophysiological and kinematic data.
- Writing and disseminating results: writing results for submission to a peer-reviewed journal and presenting them at international conferences.

Training activities:

- Discussions with the tutor.
- Participation in laboratory meetings.
- Participation in seminars, workshops and conferences