



Programa de Disciplina			
C. horária	Créditos	Disciplina	Ano/Semestre
60h	4	LTA081 – Emotions, Languages and Technologies	2020.1

Professor: Dr. Rodrigo Camargo Aragão

Ementa

Study of the inter-relationship of emotions, languages and technologies in áreas where these interdisciplinary phenomena play a role such as language teaching, language acquisition, education, psychology, evolutionary biology, computer sciences, anthropology and other social sciences.

Objetivo/s

The general goal is to foster discussion forums on the inter-relationships of emotions, language and technologies based on certain epistemological models within cognitive sciences. This may help approach different objects in Applied Linguistics research as well as other interdisciplinary areas while situating studies in contemporary frameworks.

Conteúdo Programático

1: Knowing, languaging and emotioning: Maturana's thinking and Cognitive Sciences (30/03)

Humberto Maturana, a biologist from Chile who just turned 90, is widely known for an intellectual framework named by him as The Biology of Knowing. These group of ideas has long questioned a fundamental premise of Western thought: the opposition of the biological to the sociocultural. This dichotomy is expressed in many ways and it has set an agenda in Western thought about language, cognition and culture. Humberto Maturana's conceptualization of living systems has made these dichotomies useless. Central to his ideas is the understanding of language and emotions as a dynamic process that are inter-related and through which emerge diverse cognition. The Biology of Knowing has problematized rationalistic traditions by demonstrating how "emotions are phenomena of living systems" and that what distinguishes us from other species is the intertwining of languaging and emotioning. Within the biological understanding of emotions as "bodily dispositions for actions", biology meets the social in a particular emotion: loving, because this is the emotion that allows the acceptance of other as a legitimate other in mutual coexistence. A loving biology becomes no longer this transcendental reasoning mind with which we got used to distance ourselves from our biological being. In this introduction, the aim is to present some of the ideas that have pressed the boundaries of a diversity of disciplinary frameworks. Furthermore, we will be drawing connections to the way traditional concepts such as language, learning and emotion can be reconsidered and reconceptualised through "other biological systems eyes".

Situating the biology of knowing: epistemologies of cognition (Rodrigo's Introductory Presentation)

. Cognitive Sciences and Cybernetics:

- Observer observing systems (circularity and loop systems)
- Explaining and generating explanations (language, cognition and science)

. Understanding living systems (in contrast to machines):

- Autopoiesis
- Structural determinism and structural coupling
- Operational closure, organism and nervous system
- Cognition and behaviour

. Languaging about Language

- Coordination of actions
- Consensual domains
- Regularities, recursion and metalanguaging
- Communicating
- Interobjectivity

. Living in the multiverse

- Constitutive x transcendental ontologies
- Consciousness and the observer





Readings for the 30/03:

Main Text: If you have little time for reading, focus on the language discussion from page 11 on.

1. MATURANA, H.R. (1978) Biology of language: The epistemology of reality. In: Miller, G.A. and Lenneberg, E. Eds., *Psychology and Biology of Language and Thought*. Academic Press, New York, 1978, pp. 1-19.

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/9409/7d89173928e11fc20f851cf05c9138cbfbb3.pdf>

Extended/alternative reading to the one above:

2. If you have more time or if the above text has proved too dry for reading, or you could try an alternative one: Chapter 9 of the *Tree of Knowledge – Linguistic Domains and Human Consciousness*. p. 205-238

<https://www.cybertech-engineering.ch/research/references/Maturana1988/maturana-h-1987-tree-of-knowledge-bkmrk.pdf>

Polemical Reading (extra!): if you have spare time and this topic interests you

(Polemical reading: eating soup with chopsticks: dogmas, difficulties and alternatives in the study of conscious experience)

(3) NUÑEZ, R. (1997). Eating Soup with Chopsticks: dogmas, difficulties and alternatives in the study of conscious experience. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 4, No. 2, pp. 143-166. <http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~nunez/web/Chopsticks.pdf>

- Ontology of Conversing

- Language and Linguaging
- Reasoning and emotioning
- Conversing
- Culture
- Ethics

Main text:

4. MATURANA, H. [1988]. Ontology of Conversing. In: MAGRO, C.; GRACIANO, M.; VAZ, N. (Orgs.). *A ontologia da realidade* [The Ontology of Reality]. Belo Horizonte: UFMG, 1997. p. 167-182. Translated by Cristina Magro.

http://www.sympoetic.net/Conversations/con-versare_files/1989%20The%20Ontology%20of%20Convers.pdf

- Biology of Loving: The Biological Matrix of Human Existence

- Origins of Humanness
- Patriarchal Cultures
- Matrizitic Cultures
- Ethics
- Freedom and responsibility

Main Text:

5. MATURANA, H. XIMENA, D. (2006) The Biology of knowing and the biology of loving: education as viewed from the biological matrix of human existence. *PRELAC Journal*, 2, 30-39, Santiago: UNESCO. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000145872_eng

2: Cultural politics of emotions: feminisms and the anthropology of emotions (material to be sent)

- The affective politics of fear
- Feminist politics of emotions

6. AHMED, S. (2004) Introduction: feel your way. In: AHMED, S. *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*. Edinburgh: University Press. p. 1-19.

7. AHMED, S. (2004) The affective politics of fear. In: AHMED, S. *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*. Edinburgh: University Press. p. 62-81.

8. BOLER, M. (1999). A feminist politics of emotion. In: BOLER, M. *Feeling Power: emotions and education*. New York: Routledge. p. 108-137.

3: Post-truth, (de)colonialities, language and technologies (material do be sent)

- Fake news
- Fear mongering
- Networked subjects
- Surveillance capitalism





9. BOLER, M.; DAVIS, E. (2018). The affective politics of the 'post-truth' era: Feeling rules and networked subjects. *Emotion, Space and Society*, Volume 27, 75-85
10. ZUBOFF, S. A. (2019). A Coup from above. In: ZUBOFF, S. *The age of surveillance capitalism*. The fight for a human future at the new frontier of power. London: Profile Books, 2019.

Metodologia

- Reading circles;
- Discussion forums;
- Writing of a paper.

Avaliação

2. Créditos (AVs):

AV1: Leading an online forum (making of the seminar) AV2: Leading an online forum (forum management) AV3: Mid-term paper
AV4: Final paper

Important dates and calendar of activities: to be combined

Bibliografia / Fontes

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- Suller, John. (2004). The Online Desinhibition Effect. *Cyberpsychology & Behavior*. v.7, n. 3, p. 321-326. Tettegah, Sharon. (2015). *Emotions, Technology and Social Media*. London: Elsevier.
- Yanguas, Iñigo,; Flores, Alayne. (2014). Learners' willingness to communicate in face-to-face versus oral computer mediated communication. *Jalt Call Journal*, 10(2), 83-103. Available at: http://journal.jaltcall.org/articles/10_2_Yanguas.pdf
- Zembylas, Michaelino. (2005). Emotions and teacher identity: A poststructural perspective. *Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice*, 9, 214–238. doi:10.1080/13540600309378

