

Monday Morning Workshop – Session 2

Artificial Consciousness

Three Fighting Perspectives

April 13, 2:00pm-6:00pm

	Presenters	Topic
2:00pm – 2:15pm	Antonio Chella	Introduction. Explanation of rules.
2:15pm – 3:05pm	Antonio Chella	AC is a computational and robotics problem
3:05pm – 3:55pm	Pietro Perconti	AC is a cognitive problem
3:55pm – 4:45pm	Riccardo Manzotti	AC is not just a cognitive or a computational problem
4:45pm – 5:00pm	BREAK	BREAK
5:00pm – 5:30pm	DISCUSSION: Moderated by all panelists	Is AC a way to understand natural consciousness?

The symposium on AI and consciousness will be a fight among three scholars with different perspectives on AI and consciousness. People attending the workshop will participate in the hopefully lively discussion. At the end of the workshop, the public will vote, and it will declare the winner among the three fighters.

On the one side, Antonio Chella is a roboticist working on computational models of AI. His position is that one day, an AI system with some form of experience may be implemented. On the other side, Riccardo Manzotti is a philosopher devoted to extreme externalism. His position is that both computationalism or embodied cognition cannot address the issue of consciousness. In the middle, Pietro Perconti is a cognitive scientist. His opinion is somewhere in the middle: maybe one day, AI systems may replicate aspects of consciousness, but in a prosthetic sense, i.e., improving some specific conscious ability, without the dream of a real artificial person.

Schedule

Antonio Chella will review the current state of the art in conscious AI systems. He will outline the future perspectives of the overlap between AI and consciousness. His thesis will be that the same arguments to negate experiences in machines may be well employed to deny experiences in humans.

Riccardo Manzotti will review the aspects of consciousness concerning the several elements of externalist approaches. He will outline his theory of consciousness related to radical externalism. His thesis will be that the idea of considering consciousness inside a human head or an AI system is entirely useless, and therefore talking about a conscious AI system is senseless.

Pietro Perconti will review the main theories of consciousness by analyzing the pros and cons of the two previous positions. According to his perspective, naturalizing the qualitative side of consciousness in AI systems depends on how sophisticated the computational architectures will be we can design to model them. And this, again, will drive us towards a prosthetic way in which aspects of consciousness will be implemented based on changing social needs.

ABOUT

	<p>Antonio Chella is an AI expert, actively working on the links between AI and consciousness. He is the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Consciousness.</p>
<p>Riccardo Manzotti is a philosopher and an AI expert. He has been working on machine consciousness and intentionality. He is the author of <i>The Spread Mind</i>, <i>Consciousness and Object</i>, and <i>Dialogues on Consciousness</i></p>	
	<p>Pietro Perconti is a philosopher who is more and more turning himself into a cognitive scientist, especially interested in the relationship between consciousness and social cognition. He is director of the Department of cognitive science at the University of Messina, Italy.</p>