

"REPRESENTATIONS"

INTERNATIONAL TRANSDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM OF JUNIOR

RESEARCHERS

ORGANISED BY THE JUNIOR RESEARCHERS OF THE LINGUISTICS, LANGUAGES AND SPEECH

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While the notion of representation is an increasingly common subject for many researchers, its transdisciplinarity requires both theoretical and applied anchoring in order to approach its fundamental aspects within each of the domains chosen to address the issue. Etymologically from Latin *repraesentatio* ("action of putting under the eyes"), "representations" initially carry the meaning of an "image". In a broader conception, the term image refers to several ideas such as questions related to figure(s), symbol(s), sign(s), projection(s), perception(s), stereotype(s), etc.

As a concept transversal to different scientific fields, representations therefore have many different meanings. Among them are as much the image of the world or of an experience as that which is attributed to others or to objects (both concrete and abstract). Several definitions can thus be proposed, ranging from collective and social representations (Jodelet, 2003, Abric, 2016) to mental and individual representations (Bernoussi & Florin, 1995, Fernandes & Vinter, 2009, Bault et al., 2011), *via* visual representations (Ginzburg 1991, Treilhou-Balaudé 2003), or representations of structures (for example, algebraic: Assem et al., 2006, computer science: Sabouret, 2006).

DOMAIN 1

If one wants to understand the central role of the concept of representation in the human and social sciences, it will certainly be necessary to return first to the writings of Plato and Aristotle, who initially unveiled the aporia of the eikón and its paradox of a presence *in absentia*. This same paradox will intrigue a whole panoply of philosophers, from Rousseau, Freud, Wittgenstein, Bolzano, Piaget to Émile Durkheim, Lévy-Bruhl, Marcel Mauss or Paul Ricœur, to name but a few. Jean Clenet (1998, p.70) states that "the representation constructed by a person (or a group of people) is its link, its most intimate relationship with the organisation and the environment in which

it is located" [our translation]. The representation thus addresses the cognitive and social aspect of the individual's relations with oneself, the individual with her actions and the individual with her environment. This infatuation confronts us with the epistemological and philosophical question of the relationship between what is or was in the past, and what we are capable of and willing to perceive. This domain invites to deal with representations of concepts such as those related to the human being, to language, to history, to psyche, to culture, to art, to music, etc. ., either by attempting to illuminate specific phenomena such as, for example, the notion of typicality, otherness or ipseity.

DOMAIN 2

The study of representations is also fundamental in the field of formal sciences.

"Every mathematical concept must necessarily use representations, since there are no objects to display in their place or their evocation" (Astolfi et al, 2008 [our translation]). This is also true for other disciplines in the formal sciences. This symposium of young researchers will be the opportunity to discuss among other things graphical or geometric representations (figures, drawings, diagrams), theoretical representations of the operation logic of a computer in the computer sciences (state machines, Turing machines), representations of numbers in mathematics (numeration), the representation of infinity in number theory and finally the theory of representation in algebra. Since representation is always a representation of something, it can only be studied in a defined context (D'amore & Fandiño Pinilla, 2001).

DOMAIN 3

Representations also occupy a prominent place in the life sciences and allows better visualising a fact, a reality (Guérin & Gumuchian, 1986). In physical geography, maps enable apprehending not only topographical and distance notions (reliefs, rivers, vegetation ...), but also to understand the past and future evolutions of the earth, in connection with human activity (Bonin, 2004). The biologist, for example, often uses representations to illustrate the living in its complex aspect (Glade & Stéphanou, 2013). However, these representations can be obstacles to understanding some particularly complex phenomena (Clément, 2014). As a result, in the life sciences, we do not limit ourselves to the dogma of molecular biology, for example, and to its purely scientific purpose, but necessarily take into account, in this domain, all parameters located beyond the realm of these sciences in order to not only show their impact on the representation of the living, but also the mutual influence that exists between these parameters and the living.

The notion of representation is thus an interesting phenomenon in many fields. With this in mind, our conference will bring together young researchers from various disciplines of the humanities and the social sciences (linguistics, philosophy, literature, sociology, ethnology, anthropology,

history, archaeology, psychology, the arts ...), formal sciences (mathematics, computer science, geography, physical sciences, astronomy, chemistry ...) and life sciences (biology, cognitive sciences, neurosciences, ethology ...), this list not being exhaustive.

The purpose of this symposium is to enable junior researchers in the various disciplines that make up the human and social sciences, the formal sciences and the life sciences, to present their works on the notion of representations from both the epistemological, theoretical, and practical perspectives. The aim will be to explore the various aspects of the concept, but also study its productivity, including highlighting its transversality.

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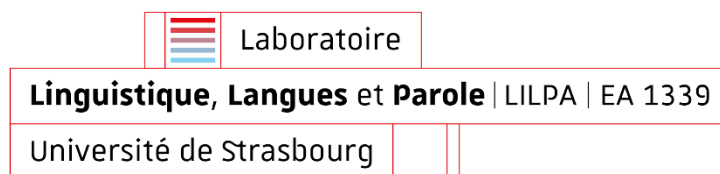
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