

Future Directions in Feminist Phenomenology
The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario
May 23-25, 2013
David Chu International Centre, WSS 2130

Dr. Veronica Vasterling, Radboud University, Nijmegen
~~Thursday May 23, 1:30 p.m.~~
NEW TIME: Friday May 24, 5:20 p.m.

Feminist Phenomenology, Embedded Embodied Cognition, and (Pseudo-)Scientific Gender Claims?

ABSTRACT

Over the past decade, the new paradigm of embedded embodied cognition (EEC) has developed, replacing the classical cognitivist paradigm. Currently, embedded embodied cognition is a vibrant and ever extending field of research which is very promising from a phenomenological and anthropological point of view. In this paper, I want to explore which resources EEC research provides to attack and replace one of the popular outcrops of cognitivism, i.e. the widely disseminated, neuroscientific claims about male and female brains. More in particular, the paper will analyze in what ways these claims, and the research on which they are based, unwittingly build on an additive approach of nature and nurture, and, hence, on nature-nurture dualism. From the perspective of EEC, it can be shown that the additive approach implies concepts of nature and causality that are untenable.