Scaffolding Memory Workshop Program

DAY ONE (28th November)

Session 1: Scaffolding: Themes, Theories, and Concepts

8:45 Registration and coffee

9.00-9.15 Dr Celia Harris, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
9.15-10.00 Professor John Sutton, Cognitive Science, Macquarie

The Workshop starts with a welcome by Harris. Then, Sutton introduces the theoretical background to memory scaffolding, and summarises related concepts from philosophy, cognitive science and psychology.

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee Break

Session 2: Scaffolding the Development of Memory in Children

10.30-11.30 Keynote: Associate Professor Elaine Reese, Psychology, Otago
11.30-12.00 Dr Penny Van Bergen, Education, Macquarie

Reese – a leading international expert – and Van Bergen – a teaching-research academic – describe their research on the ways that parents scaffold the memories of small children, and how their innovative developmental research can be extended to memory scaffolding across the lifespan.

Session 3: Scaffolded Performance in Families, Teams and Workgroups

12.00-12.30 Kellie Williamson & Dr Rochelle Cox, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
12.30-1.00 Andrew Attard, Cognitive Science, Macquarie

Williamson, Cox, and Attard discuss scaffolding in teamwork and organisational performance. They describe how sports teams and firefighters coordinate and scaffold each others’ skilled practices, and consider the links between physical and cognitive coordination.

1.00-2.00 Lunch Break

Session 4: Applications to Aging and Dementia

2.00-3.00 Keynote: Dr Donna Rose Addis, Psychology, Auckland
3.00-3.30 Dr Celia Harris, Cognitive Science, Macquarie

Addis – international expert on memory declines in ageing – discusses the relevance of memory scaffolding to healthy ageing and dementia. She describes the kinds of scaffolding that might help in daily life. Harris discusses her work on shared remembering systems – both social and technological – in married couples.

3.30-4.00 Coffee Break

Session 5: Discussion, Synthesis, and Planning

4.00-4.30 Associate Professor Amanda Barnier, Cognitive Science, Macquarie

In this session, Barnier will act as a Discussant for the day, picking up common themes from across the sessions to find points of convergence and points of disagreement. This will then stimulate discussion and planning among the whole group.
DAY TWO (29th November)

Session 1: Developing Shared Methods

9.30-10.30 Keynote: Professor Suparna Rajaram, Psychology, Stony Brook University

Rajaram, a leading international expert in the experimental study of memory and social memory phenomena, will review current literature on the science of memory and will discuss her recent model of the processes that lead to costs and benefits of shared remembering in groups. This keynote will be used as a springboard for a subsequent methodological roundtable discussion, where we develop ways of bringing best practice in the science of memory to studying complex social memory phenomena.

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-12.00 Methodological Roundtable: How would you study the costs and benefits, products and processes, of remembering with others?

- Professor Suparna Rajaram: Testing group memory in the lab
- Associate Professor Amanda Barnier: Extending laboratory paradigms and ecological validity
- Dr Donna Rose Addis: Scoring autobiographical memories
- Dr Doris McIlwain: Introducing qualitative methodologies into research

In this session, led by four researchers with distinct quantitative and qualitative methodological expertise, we discuss different methodological approaches to studying memory: both individual remembering and remembering in a social context. We aim to use this discussion as a way for all participants to generate novel, integrative methods for studying the complex phenomena of interest. After initial presentations from our four experts, Harris will chair a question and answer session aimed at integrating methods and developing shared methods and terminology across participants from different backgrounds and disciplines.

12.00-1.00 Lunch Break

Session 2: Belief and Memory: Folie a Deux – Scaffolding Gone Wrong?

1.00-1.30 Associate Professor Robyn Langdon, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
1.30-2.00 Dr Rochelle Cox, Cognitive Science, Macquarie

In this session, we discuss clinical disorders that can arise as a result of dysfunctional social scaffolding. We present clinical cases of shared delusions (known as folie a deux) that can occur in individuals who are closely associated with each other and who are often isolated from the wider community. We illustrate the disruptions to belief that can occur in these cases and present our attempt to model shared delusions in the laboratory. We speculate about the implications for memory.

2.00-2.30 Coffee Break

Session 3: Autobiographical and Social Memory

2.30-2.45 Dr Adam Congleton, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
2.45-3.00 Jenn Broekhuijse, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
3.00-3.15 Amanda Selwood, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
3.15-3.30 Marina Trakas, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
3.30-3.45 Emma Nile, Education, Macquarie
3.45-4.00 Chris McCarroll, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
4.00-4.15 Aline Cordonnier, Cognitive Science, Macquarie
4.15-4.30 Dr Anne S. Rasmussen, Centre on Autobiographical Memory Research, Aarhus University

In this dedicated session, across a number of short talks we hear about current work being conducted by students and early career researchers interested in a range of aspects of autobiographical and social memory.

4:30: Thank You and Close