

Open Minds Meetings – Panel “Brain Time and Aesthetics”

February 10, 2026

Abstract

No Brain without Art. No Art without Brain. Arts and science have developed out of boredom. A sociologist has once suggested a "hiatus" which is the pause between the desire and waiting for satisfaction, which may take some time. In this pause which can be rather boring within all sensory systems art was created like music, poetry, or visual art. As a scientist can then ask the question: What is created in this pause or hiatus, does this reflect anthropological universals (what unites us) or cultural specifics (what makes us different)? This leads to the concept of "complementarity as generative principle". Art and Science are complementary. Evolutionary heritage and environmental imprinting are complementary. Every cognitive act is both "bottom-up" and "top-down". We have to overcome the disease of "monocausality", the obsession to explain everything by one cause only, Ockham's razor misunderstood.