Thursday 9th November 4pm – Maynooth University Psychology Department

Dr. Ana Belen Navarro-Prados (University of Salamanca, Spain)

Alzheimer's Disease and Drawing through a Model of Retrogenesis: what Drawing Processes tell us about the Progress of Dementia.

Ana is a lecturer at the Department of Evolutionary Psychology and Education at the University of Salamanca in Spain. She has interests in geriatrics, positive psychology, and evolutionary psychology. She will be speaking to us about her work related to dementia.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ana_Navarro10

Abstract:

A progressive deterioration in various aspects of drawing expression in persons with dementia suggests an inverse symmetry towards childhood stages of artistic development known as Retrogenesis (Reisberg et al., 1999). This implies that stages of dementia might be understood as corresponding, in inverse order, to stages of childhood development, at cognitive, functional and neurological levels. This presentation focuses on the comparative study of a set of human figure drawings produced by a sample of older individuals diagnosed with AD of varying severity and a sample of typically developing children (2-7 years). Drawing deficits are seen in the AD sample and a trend to involution appears, with a common pattern of human figure drawing simplification and a decrease in the use of colours.These data appear to support the presence of Retrogenesis, as conceptualised by Reisberg et al., (1999) but may also be explained by the emergence of apraxia as dementia progresses. Regardless of etiology, observation of drawing deficits, from the perspective of a process-based approach, may constitute a useful source of information regarding cognitive decline as dementia progresses.