



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook
p r e s e n t s

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

3:00 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception will follow

Alex Martin

National Institute of Mental Health

Embodiment and the Organization of Conceptual Knowledge in the Brain

A key finding to emerge from functional neuroimaging studies is that our conceptual system is *grounded* in perception, action, and emotion processing systems. In the brain, this grounding takes the form of distributed, domain-specific, property-based neural circuits that support multiple functions and provide a foundation upon which we build our rich store of conceptual knowledge. It will be proposed that embodiment provides a natural framework for understanding the organization of conceptual representations and the interaction between brain and body.



Alex Martin is Chief of the Cognitive Neuropsychology Section, Laboratory of Brain and Cognition, at the National Institute of Mental Health. In 1985 he joined the faculty of the Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences where he studied cognitive dysfunction associated with HIV infection. In 1989 he moved to the NIMH where he continued his work on cognitive abnormalities in neurologic and neuropsychiatric disorders. More recently, his program has used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to study the neural systems mediating different aspects of memory, language, and perception.