

Wednesday 6th April, 2016

Summary: CICASP Seminar 27
TED Talks: Presenting as performing

Nine presenters had prepared a one-minute part of a presentation, either of a TED talk or a scene from a film. The presenters spoke the exact same words as the presenter/actor they were copying, and adopted the same style of delivery. Afterwards, the audience gave their ratings and the presenter revealed what made them chose that particular extract. Subjects included: saying nothing, opera-singing and birdsong, why octopuses are amazing, the comparative biology of animal penises, procrastination and the 'panic monster', and death and architecture. Actor monologues included a speech about greed and Snape's first potion-making class in Harry Potter. Presenting styles included walking around and reading from a clipboard, the use of gestural mimes to illustrate a personal anecdote and showing extreme passion and excitement about your topic. Reasons given for choosing the section ranged from liking the presenter's hairstyle, to an interest in the topic to wanting to become better at using gestures in presentations. Two students then gave one-minute presentations about their own research, copying the style of their chosen presenter. This proved to be a strikingly impactful way to impart information, giving us all some ideas, food for thought, for our future talks.

Wednesday 20th April, 2016

Outline: CICASP Seminar 28
Grant Writing Masterclass

Ikuma will lead the next block of two seminars focusing on grant writing. Attendees will learn how best to structure and write grants from an academic with a proven track record of success in this area. This is an invaluable opportunity, especially timed to be a little in advance of the JSPS grant application date.