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REPORT

on the activities carried out at University of Aarhus during the period June 15-29,
2009.

As agreed I arrived in Aarhus by car at June 15, after two-day travel from Plovdiv, Bulgaria. I was met by Mette Steenberg, PhD student and Project Coordinator of the Interacting Minds Group, headed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andreas Roepstorff. She took me to the studio flat I rented at Nobel Parken, and then to the office that was going to be at my disposal fully equipped with the necessary facilities. The studio and the office were at a walking distance from the University campus and provided an excellent research environment during my residency.

On June 18, I presented my research at the Interactive Minds weekly seminar, which took place in the group's meeting hall. My presentation included different the lines of my current research, including the ATACD activities that I carried out in Plovdiv University. It was followed by discussion which, together with presentation, lasted for more than two hours.

During my residency, I managed to get acquainted with the research and research activities of the Interactive Minds Group and the Center for Functionally Integrative Neuroscience, as well as with the works on simulating cultural dynamics using the neural networks approach, carried out by Don Braxton and Kristoffer Nielbo at the Department of the Study of Religion, Aarhus University. I also conducted an in-depth bibliographic search and collected a significant number of relevant papers and books in the field of cognitive semiotics, socio-cultural approaches to the study of mind and its application to neurosciences. These seem to share a number of common problems in relation to simulating the interactions of 'communities' of neural cells and cultural communities.

During our discussions, Prof. Andreas Roepstorff and myself came up with the idea of organizing an ad hoc ATACD workshop to discuss the approaches to simulating cultural dynamics. The workshop took place on Thursday June 25, 2009 and was attended by more than 20 researchers from Aarhus University. At the workshop I made a presentation co-authored with my colleague from Plovdiv University Dr. Peter Kopanov, and which summarized the ATACD research carried out by our group. Don Braxton presented a paper summarizing his effort in simulating religious activities using NetLogo software, while as Kristoffer Nielbo presented an interesting case study on neural network modeling of concept acquisition. The details of the workshop have been posted on:
http://www.interacting-minds.net/Sted/SIMULATING_CULTURAL_DYNAMICS.html

With the ATACD Workshop, my short research stay in Denmark came to an end and two days later I headed back to Bulgaria full with ideas and wonderful impressions, as well as many new friends and colleagues that I met in Aarhus.