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Being Mobile: Cognitive Multiplicity

Some years ago mobile phones were often considered a technical means for providing perpetual disturbance. Despite the previous aversion to mobile telephony, mobile phones have now become omnipresent instruments of everyday life and are considered indispensable. The quick and successful adaptation to mobile telephony suggests that people already possess – at least, in part – the cognitive abilities and capacities, required by newly acquired instruments, and which are ready to be revealed by scientific survey. The use of mobile phones requires capabilities which give us ability to handle the multiplicity of situational embeddedness, i.e. to switch quickly among problems, perspectives, commitments, and relations, etc., and at the same time, it offers multitudinous ways to express and mediate ideas.

Considering the changes in communications technologies and the use of new technologies, one is faced with the question of whether the use of these technologies gives rise to change in the human cognition. Relying on Merlin Donald's cognitive-evolutionary survey on the one hand and the conclusions of the surveys of the so-called Toronto School, on the other, I would like to argue for the close inter-relatedness of cognition and its representational-communicational framework.