

## I told no one. Introduction

**Przemysław Nowakowski**

Department of Cognitive Science and Epistemology  
Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland  
[pnowakowski@avant.edu.pl](mailto:pnowakowski@avant.edu.pl)

translated by Ewa Bodal

published 24 December 2012

Frederique de Vignemont's works can be divided (in a manner independent from thematic distinctions) into theoretical and experimental ones. On the one hand, she is the author of one of the more curious conceptualizations of the role of body in cognition (a subject much exploited experimentally, but neglected philosophically). On the other hand, she is the co-author of interesting experimental works, which frequently complement and support her inquiries.

She is a CNRS researcher at the Jean Nicod Institute (Paris). Main aim of her research is to provide a systematic account of bodily awareness. Her research on bodily awareness include the phenomenology of bodily awareness, body representations (body schema and body image), the body and the space and more. De Vignemont also wrote several experimental papers related to one of the most famous experiment in the field - the rubber hand illusion. Besides her scientific research interests are in the field of self-consciousness, social cognition and psychopathology.

Her studies are interesting not only due to their scientific value, but also because of their interdisciplinary nature. She has published about 50 papers. She has worked with many philosophers (Alvin Goldman, Pierre Jacob, Adrian Alsmith) and cognitive scientists (Marc Jennerod, Patrick Haggard, and many others). She is currently working on a monograph entitled *Mind the Gap*, and – as we learn from the interview published in the issue – has a certain penchant for reading novels.

In the interview with Frederique de Vignemont we focus on the author's two main research areas: body awareness and the cognition of others. The remarks regarding the book she is currently working on (*Mind the Gap*) constitute an introduction to these questions. We have enhanced the interview with questions about enactivism, interdisciplinarity of her research, as well as about the place of a philosopher in contemporary cognitive sciences.

Stanisław Lem in his book entitled *Highcastle* reminisces about his youthful years in Lwów. The author portrays almost fantastical experiences – which are, however, strikingly similar to the migraine-induced experiences of disturbances of the body image, as described by Lunn. Not only the following quote from Lem’s book, but also *Roly Poly* (filmed by Andrzej Wajda), *Peace on Earth* or the author’s other works may interestingly complement de Vignemont’s last statement in the interview:

*Sometimes, when I was sick, but also when I was perfectly healthy, I would have strange sensations called, as I learned thirty years later, disturbances of the body-image. I lay in bed with my hands on my chest, and suddenly they would start growing, while under their incredible mass I became smaller and smaller. This happened several times, and definitely when I was awake. My hands grew to mountainous size, the fingers turning into enormous closed arches in their monstrous elephantiasis. I was frightened, but only a little, it was so strange—and told no one. [Stanisław Lem *Highcastle*: 42<sup>48</sup>]*

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<sup>48</sup> Lem S. 1997. *Highcastle*. translated by M. Kandel, Mariner Books.