

# IS1404 E-READ: Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitization

## Position paper

Name:

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WG(s):

WG3 (WG-leader, junior); WG4

1. Potential research contribution in light of, or linked to

A. WG interest and Scientific programme:

My background is in the humanities. The bulk of my previous research experience is in theory and model building based on available research findings across disciplines (experimental phenomenology, empirical aesthetics, various fields of psychology, cognitive neuroscience). I have theoretical work published or forthcoming on the following topics:

- a) mental imagery and readers' immersion/**embodied experience** more generally, its basic varieties and **textual underpinnings** (e.g.: What linguistic structures make a text more/less imageable?)
- b) the role of **reading environment** in readers' mental imagery, immersion, and aesthetic pleasure (e.g.: Does it make a difference where you read?)
- c) embodied text experience across the **print vs. audiobook** divide (e.g.: What are the shared experiential affordances of reading and listening?)

I also have a sustained interest in topics such as:

- d) **genre** (e.g. fiction vs. non-fiction) and **reading strategy** (e.g. leisure vs. information search) effects on any aspect of the reading experience
- e) processing **fluency** as a matter of first-person experience
- f) **memory** for text experience

**and, crucially, the possible interactions of a)-f) with the medium (print vs. screen) variable.**

B. Action objectives (pages 7-10 in the MoU):

I am not part of any lab at the moment and lack the research funding and infrastructure to run experiments or collect data independently, but I have previous experience of fruitful short-term collaboration with psychology labs (Dixon & Bortolussi, Alberta; paper & pen,

quantitative design) and other empirical research teams (IGEL North; paper & pen, mixed design). In these contexts my contributions have included:

- co-authoring research proposals and funding applications
- experiment design, including (literary) text analysis, the production of textual stimuli, and instrument development
- interpretation and scientific dissemination of results

As an ESR, I seek to develop my skills and competences by offering assistance with the above to E-READ members with experimental research funding of their own.

With respect to the action as a whole, I should also be able to assist with popular dissemination (journalism) in national outlets (Sweden, Czech Republic).

## 2. Interest in

A. organizing and/or participating in a short-term scientific mission (STSM).

*Optional:* pursuing what research questions/projects; where to/with whom; linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

Yes (participation). Repeated STSMs if possible.

Location:

- D.I.N.E., Free University, Berlin
- The Reading Center, University of Stavanger
- and/or OTHER

B. organizing and/or participating in a Training School (please indicate what kind of training [theoretical; methodological; technical]).

*Optional:* linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

Yes (participation).

Focus: methodological, technical (preferably eye-tracking and/or other of the less costly physiological paradigms)

*[Relevant action objectives as defined in MoU:*

- *to prompt systematic, empirical, interdisciplinary research transcending established boundaries between scientific disciplines involved in reading research;*
- *to facilitate joint scientific publications and new, radically interdisciplinary, collaborative research projects (esp. across humanities/social sciences and natural sciences);*
- *to establish long-term theoretically and methodologically innovative research collaboration;*
- *to facilitate exchange of researchers, prioritizing juniors and early career researchers]*