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Simulating Activities: Relating Motives, Deliberation and Attentive Coordination

By William J. Clancey

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 40 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Activities are located behaviors, taking time, conceived as socially meaningful, and usually involving interaction with tools and the environment. In modeling human cognition as a form of problem solving (goal-directed search and operator sequencing), cognitive science researchers have not adequately studied off-task activities (e. g. , waiting), non-intellectual motives (e. g. , hunger), sustaining a goal state (e. g. , playful interaction), and coupled perceptual-motor dynamics (e. g. , following someone). These aspects of human behavior have been considered in bits and pieces in past research, identified as scripts, human factors, behavior settings, ensemble, flow experience, and situated action. More broadly, activity theory provides a comprehensive framework relating motives, goals, and operations. This paper ties these ideas together, using examples from work life in a Canadian High Arctic research station. The emphasis is on simulating human behavior as it naturally occurs, such that working is understood as an aspect of living. The result is a synthesis of previously unrelated analytic perspectives and a broader appreciation of the nature of human cognition. Simulating activities in this comprehensive way is useful for understanding...



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