Department of Theatre Arts
presents a talk with
Dr. Rhonda Blair

“Cognitive Ecologies, 4E Cognition, and Theatre and Performance”

Dr. Rhonda Blair will discuss applications of cognitive science research to theatre/performance, and the necessity of engaging the research to be as informed as possible when we work with bodies, minds, language, and environments. She will give an overview of some aspects of the science, focusing on principles of cognitive ecologies, 4E cognition, and enactivism, and describe how this can be used to help us not only better understand the operations of theatre and performance, but also make us more articulate and effective artists.

Among many others, scientists and philosophers informing Dr. Blair’s work include Shaun Gallagher, Alva Noë, George Lakoff, Mark Johnson, Gilles Fauconnier, Mark Turner, Catherine Malabou, Teenie Matlock, and Jesse Prinz; theatre and performance scholars she draws on include Amy Cook, Evelyn Tribble, and John Lutterbie.

EVENT DATE AND TIME
Friday, March 30, 2018
2:00–3:00pm with reception to follow

LOCATION
The Henry Heymann Theatre
4301 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dr. Rhonda Blair is a Professor in the Division of Theatre for the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University where she researches applications of cognitive science to acting, directing and text, particularly in how current research on the brain, body, thought, feeling, language, interpersonal dynamics and cultural “ecologies” can inform and empower us when we make theatre.

Her recent monograph, Theatre, Performance and Cognition: Languages, Bodies and Ecologies (Bloomsbury, 2016) introduces readers to the key debates, areas of research, and applications of the cognitive sciences to the humanities, and to theatre and performance in particular.

This event is FREE and open to the public

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Please contact Dr. Sara B.T. Thiel with questions at sarabthiel@pitt.edu