There has been a growing concern in the humanities for some time now that advances in the neurosciences constitute a serious challenge to their traditional expertise in matters of the mind and that the disciplinary fortifications against take-over attempts from the sciences and their more and more sophisticated methods of investigation are eroding apace.

In this process the mind is being reconfigured from a number of interesting angles and it is the aim of this conference to do two things at this juncture: use the expertise of literary scholars to test the available mind-models and the theories about how it does what it does proposed by the various branches of the neuro- and the cognitive sciences and vice versa confront contemporary literary theorizing about how literature does what it does with the latest research on how the brain functions, how its architecture is structured, how it uses language and how it has generally organized and reorganized its relationship with its cultural environment.

The conference language will be English.
Programme day 1
Thursday, April 10, 2008
18.00  Jürgen Schlaeger (Berlin): Welcome & Introduction
19.00  Reception
20.00  Dinner

Programme day 2
Friday, April 11, 2008
9.00— Val Cunningham (Oxford): "Scientists Figuring It Out"
10.00  "Small Intermental Units in Little Dorrit"
11.00  Coffee Break
11.30— Alexander Bergs (Osnabrück): "When Concepts Clash..."
12.30  Lunch Break
12.30— Wolfgang Hallet (Giessen): "The Multimodality of Cultural Experience and Mental Model Constructions of Textual Worlds"
14.30— "The Imitation Myth"
15.30  Coffee Break

Programme day 3
Saturday, April 12, 2008
9.00— Gesa Stedman (Berlin): "Brain Plots: Neuroscience and the Contemporary Novel"
10.00  "Theories of Mind and Fiction"
11.00  Coffee Break
11.30— Annette Kern-Stähler (Duisburg-Essen) and Anna Thiemann (Münster): "Inside the Autistic Mind"
12.30  Lunch Break
12.30— "Narrative Theory Meets Blending: Multiperspektivity Reconsidered"
14.30— "Basic Mental Operations and the Literary Mind"
15.30— Coffee Break

Programme day 4
Sunday, April 13, 2008
16.00— Patrick Hogan (Connecticut): "The Narrative Brain: On Emotions, Events, and Explanations"
16.00— "The Imitation Myth"
17.00  "Encountering People Through Literature"
17.00  "The Imitation Myth"
"The Imitation Myth"
18.00  "The Imitation Myth"

Programme day 4
Sunday, April 13, 2008
16.00— Herbert Grabes (Giessen): "Encountering People Through Literature"
17.00  "The Imitation Myth"
18.00  "The Imitation Myth"
"The Imitation Myth"
19.00  "The Imitation Myth"