

“Homme-trace” and “signe-trace”

- The French “*Homme-trace*” paradigm (Galinon-Méléneq, 2011) assumes on one hand that the “sign-traces” of person-environment interaction are written on the body, and in the brain; on the other hand, their practices produce sign-traces in an environment. All are operating in a system of internalisation of externality and externalisation of interiority.
- The “*sign-trace*” carries within itself the process that produced it. It is a “black box” wherein interactions are so tangled together that rational understanding always leaves a doubt.
- The “*sign-traces*” on and in the body—and the brain—result from interactions between an individual and that person’s environment. A corporeal sign-trace “speaks” silently, and can be understood without being seen.

In order to understand communication between two people, one cannot merely consider its spoken content, but must also account for the relationship that determines the meaning of that content. Within the field of information and communication sciences (ICS) in France, Béatrice Galinon-Méléneq (2008) introduced the term “*corporeal sign-trace*” to better highlight the ways in which the past acts upon interactions between individuals in a communicative situation. The interpretation of a “sign-trace” comes from processing its “*echoing*” between persons in a communicative situation.