

# Sincere Hand and Faithful Eye. Cognitive Practices in Ensembles of Text and Drawing

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## Summary

With this paper I endeavour to adapt Lorraine Daston's term of *cognitive practices* in order to deal with material traces of writing and reading in natural philosophy of the seventeenth and the eighteenth century. In this paper I put particular emphasis on text-depiction-pairs. I hypothesize that basic cognitive faculties such as writing and reading serve as 'triggers' for cognitive practices of the scientific self: arts of memory, economies of attention, and the solidification and erosion of belief. For instance, the cognitive practices which are activated by 'reading' text-depiction-pairs are equivalent to the ones of the experimenter, who shifts his attention from observation to data to hypothesis and back. Building on Daston's well-known theory I focus on experimental cognition in specific epistemic situations.

*Keywords: history of cognitive practices, text-depiction pairs, material traces, observation*

## 1. Introduction

The topic of the present article is drawings (in letters and 'private' laboratory notebooks) and illustrations (in printed monographs) in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These drawings and illustrations interrelated with the text function in order to evoke and enhance cognitive practices on the side of the writer and/or the reader. The term 'cognitive practices' has been coined

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