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Are spatial representations embodied?

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Embodied views of cognition argue that cognitive processing is strongly intertwined with action-related mechanisms, instead of only amodal representations (e.g. Barsalou, 2008). A large body of literature has demonstrated the influence of body-related information on perception (Tucker & Ellis, 1998) or even language comprehension (e.g. Glenberg & Kaschak, 2002), but less evidence has been gathered for memory. Results of a series of experiments using a postural interference paradigm suggest that long-term memory of objects shares processing resources with sensorimotor systems. The same paradigm has been used with more complex material, and other results will be reviewed which provide evidence towards an embodied view of spatial representations.

Aula Magna “Cesare Musatti”

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