





Max-Wertheimer Minerva Center for Cognitive Processes and Human Performance

אנו שמחים לארח את

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The intraparietal sulcus and its battle against saliency

When the visual scene contains both relevant and irrelevant information for the beholder attentional mechanisms (typically localized in fronto-parietal regions) engage in order to select the relevant and ignore the irrelevant. However, the relative saliency of the visual information has obvious impact on selection. In a series of recent studies we have used converging operations to demonstrate a link between the Posterior Parietal Cortex (PPC) and selection on the basis of the relative salience of the stimuli. Here we report further evidence pointing to a specific involvement of the left intraparietal sulcus (left IPS) when salient but irrelevant information must be ignored. Using functional imaging (fMRI) with healthy controls as well as patients with brain lesion we show that activity in the left IPS is driven by the relative saliency of the to-be-ignored information. Furthermore, using the combination of TMS together with fMRI we are able to start unveiling the functional connections between the left and right IPS and the visual cortex, which implement selection based on saliency.

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