

A SHORT TIME AGO I CEASED TO EXIST

ANAESTHESIA:
People into OBJECTS & back again

OBLIVION
Bye!

We experience JOY and SUFFERING, what about OTHER ANIMALS? Might they be CONSCIOUS TOO?

We can get at the mechanisms of our misperceptions of ourselves

HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS is ONE TINY REGION in a VAST UNIVERSE of CONSCIOUSNESS

CONSCIOUSNESS
... HOW?

COMING BACK BABY

Being an EMBODIED ORGANISM is grounded in BIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS
L.A.I. can't replicate this

WE PREDICT OURSELVES INTO EXISTENCE

OUR CONSCIOUS EXPERIENCES are Controlled HALLUCINATIONS

... WITH, THROUGH & BECAUSE OF OUR LIVING BODIES

INTERCEPTION - Perceiving BODIES from within

CONTROL + Regulation

BEING A BODY:

Seeing & feeling create a FALSE BEST GUESS!

Once we EXPLAIN its PROPERTIES in terms of things happening inside BRAINS & BODIES then the INSOLUBLE MYSTERY Starts to FADE AWAY

YOUR BRAIN HALLUCINATES YOUR CONSCIOUS REALITY

PERCEPTION: controlled
HALLUCINATION: uncontrolled
HALLUCINATION: UNCONTROLLED PERCEPTION

WORLD MOVIE CONSCIOUSNESS

STARRING ROLE!
I'M GOOD IN THIS!
SELF MOVIE - We cling to a sense of SELF

IMAGINE... being a BRAIN:
NO light or sound, just ELECTRICAL IMPULSES indirectly related to things in the WORLD

The BRAIN is a PREDICTION ENGINE that relies upon INFORMED GUESSWORK.

WE ACTIVELY GENERATE the WORLD

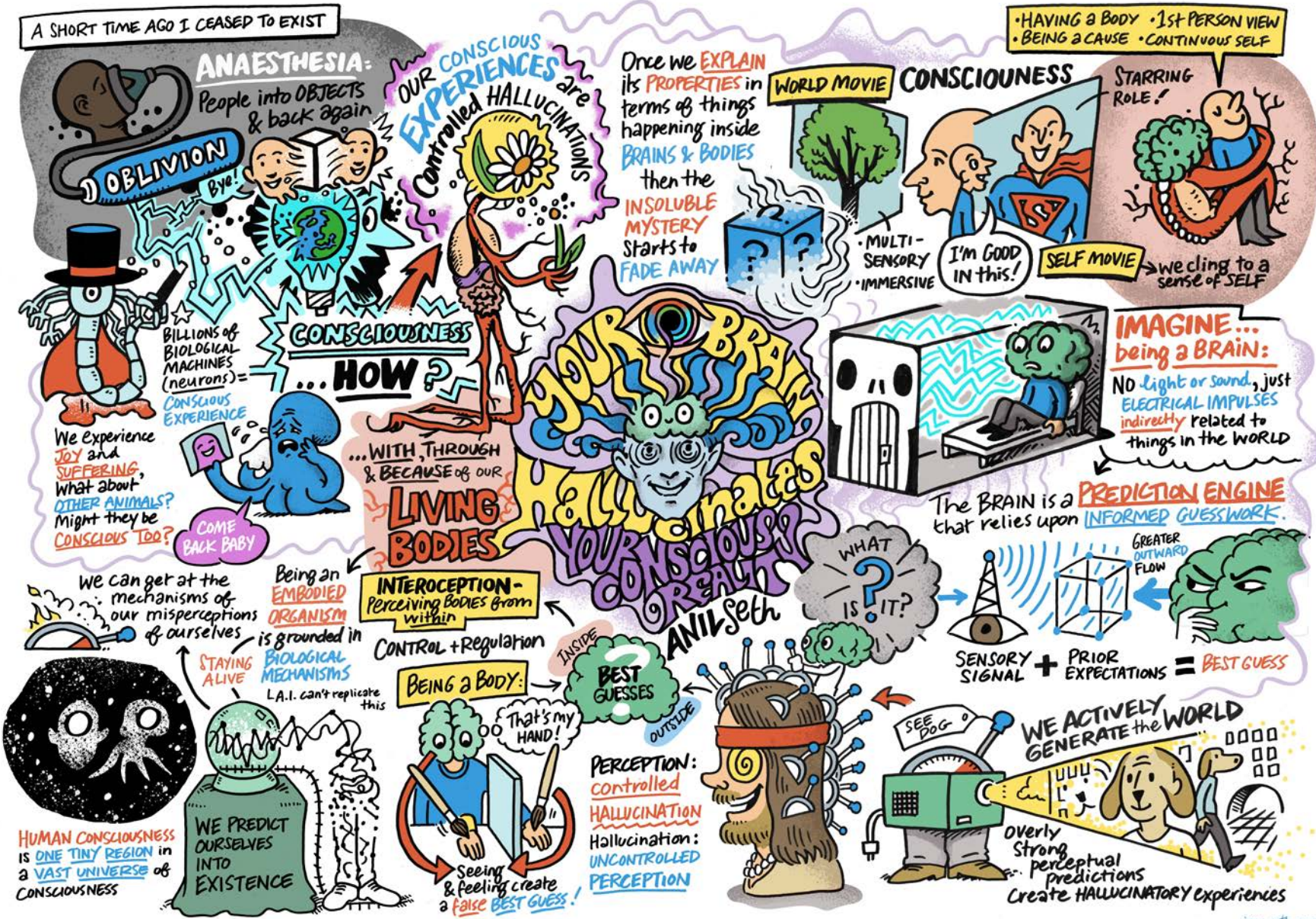
• HAVING a BODY • 1st PERSON VIEW
• BEING a CAUSE • CONTINUOUS SELF

• MULTI-SENSORY • IMMERSIVE

GREATER OUTWARD FLOW

SENSORY SIGNAL + PRIOR EXPECTATIONS = BEST GUESS

overly strong perceptual predictions create HALLUCINATORY experiences




jamesthescribe

the most unknown

Axel Cleeremans



Netflix (2018), dir. Ian Cheney

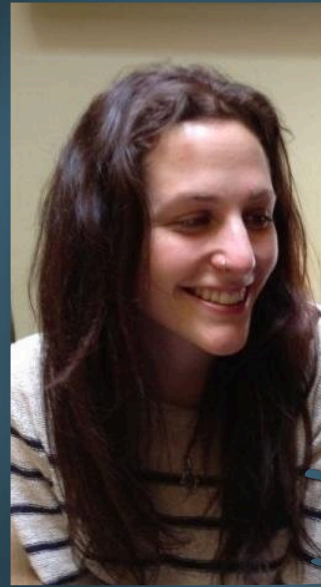
A still from a film showing two men walking away from the camera on a gravel path. The man on the left is wearing a grey hoodie and blue jeans. The man on the right is wearing a dark grey jacket and dark trousers. In the background, there is a white house with a red-tiled roof, a blue car parked in a driveway, and lush green foliage on either side of the path.

-Welcome to the UK, of course.
-Thank you very much, yeah.

The Most Unknown (2018) dir. Ian Cheney



Warrick Roseboom



Maxine Sherman

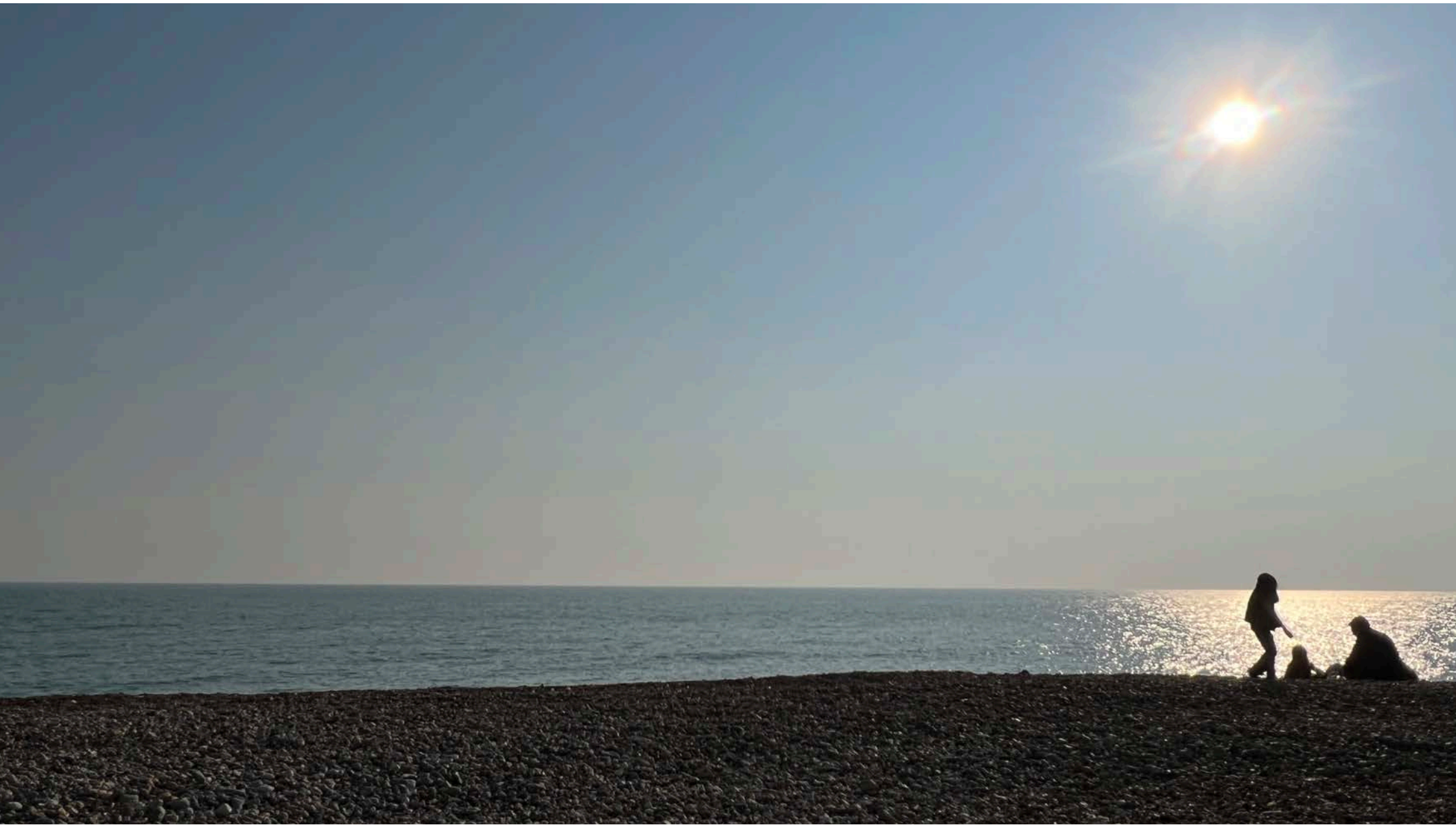


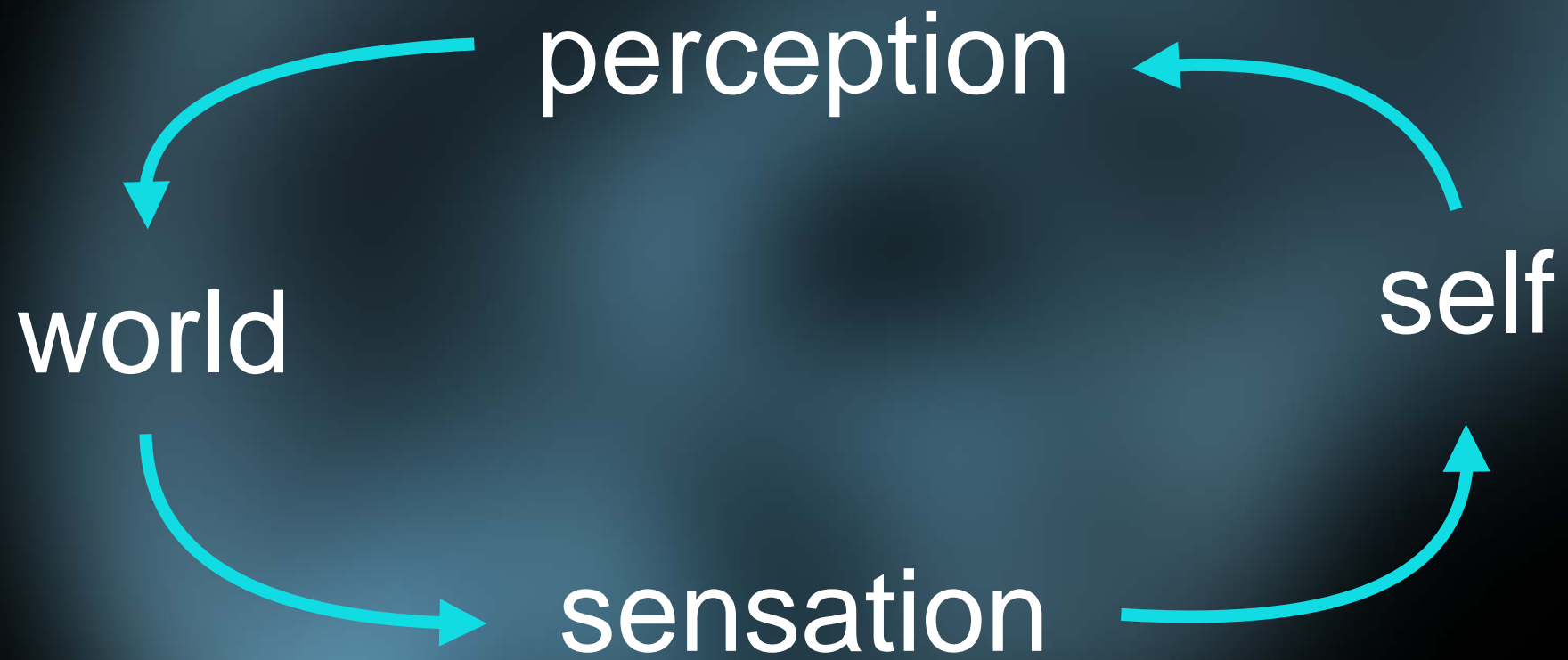
Zafeirios Fountas

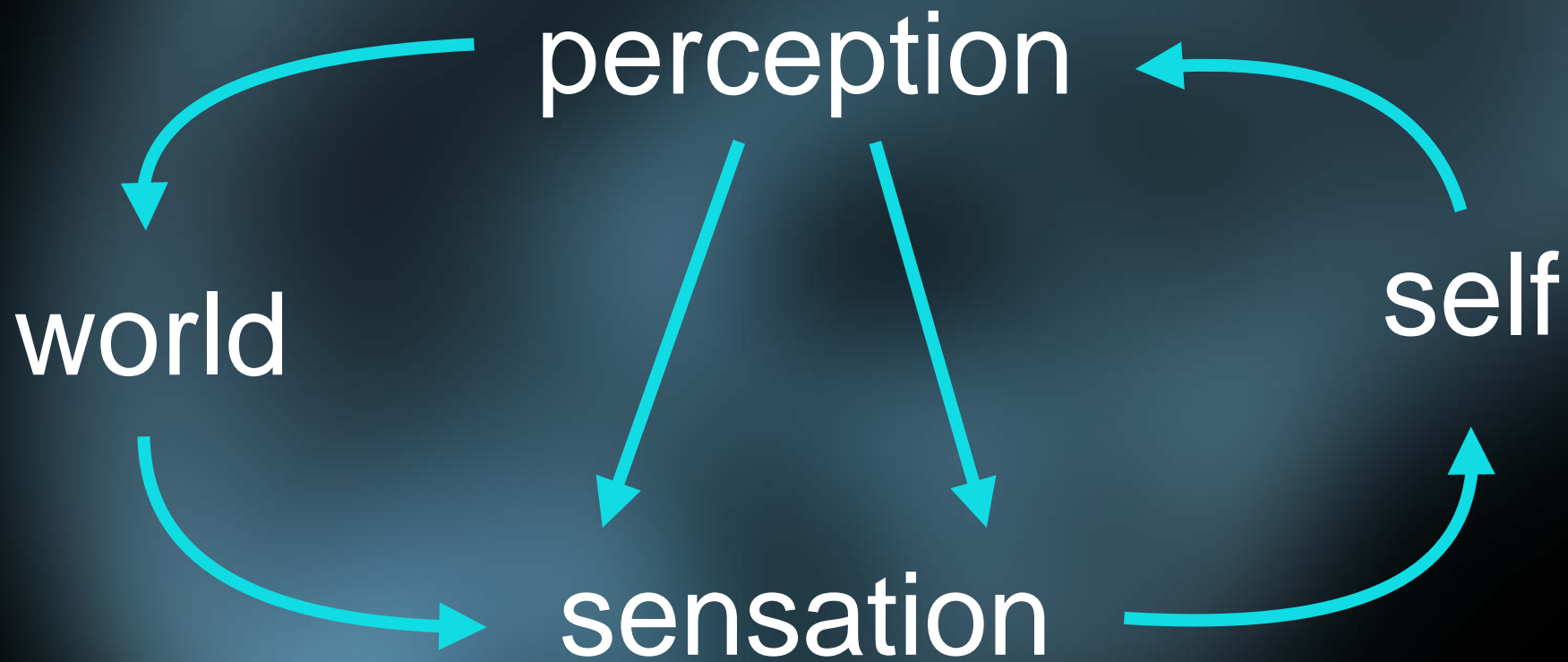
Roseboom et al (2019) *Nature Communications*

Sherman et al (2022) *BioRxiv*

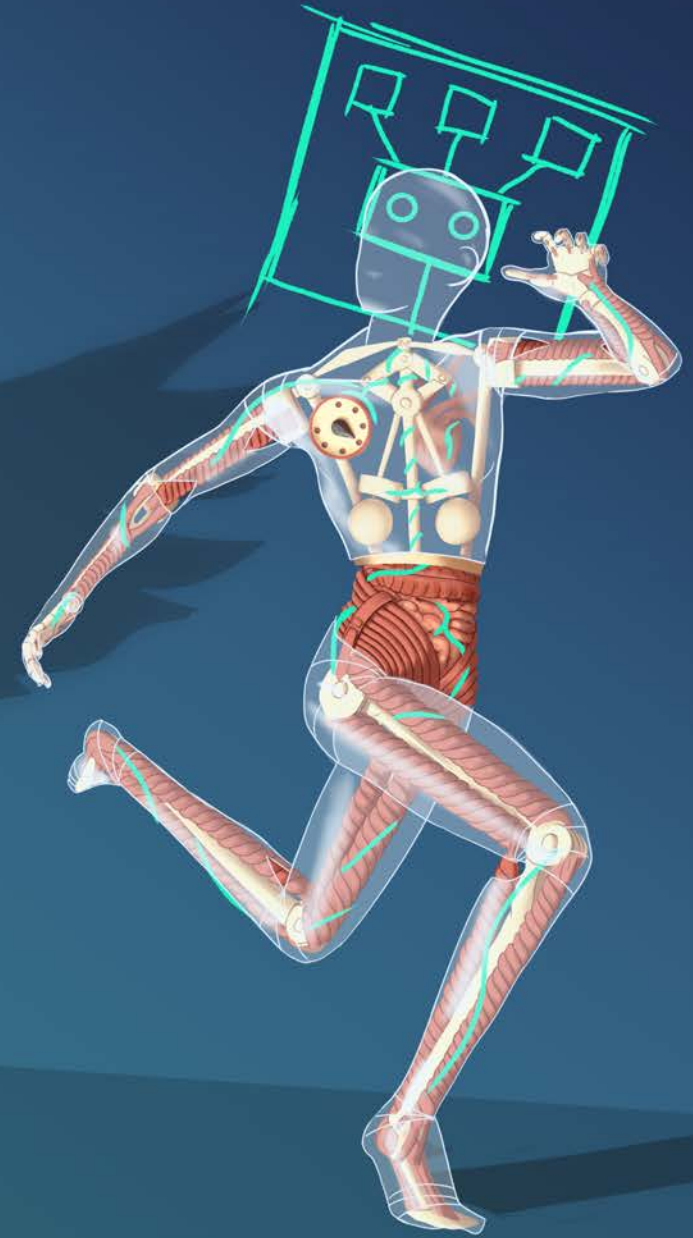
Fountas et al (in press) *Neural Computation*







controlled
hallucination

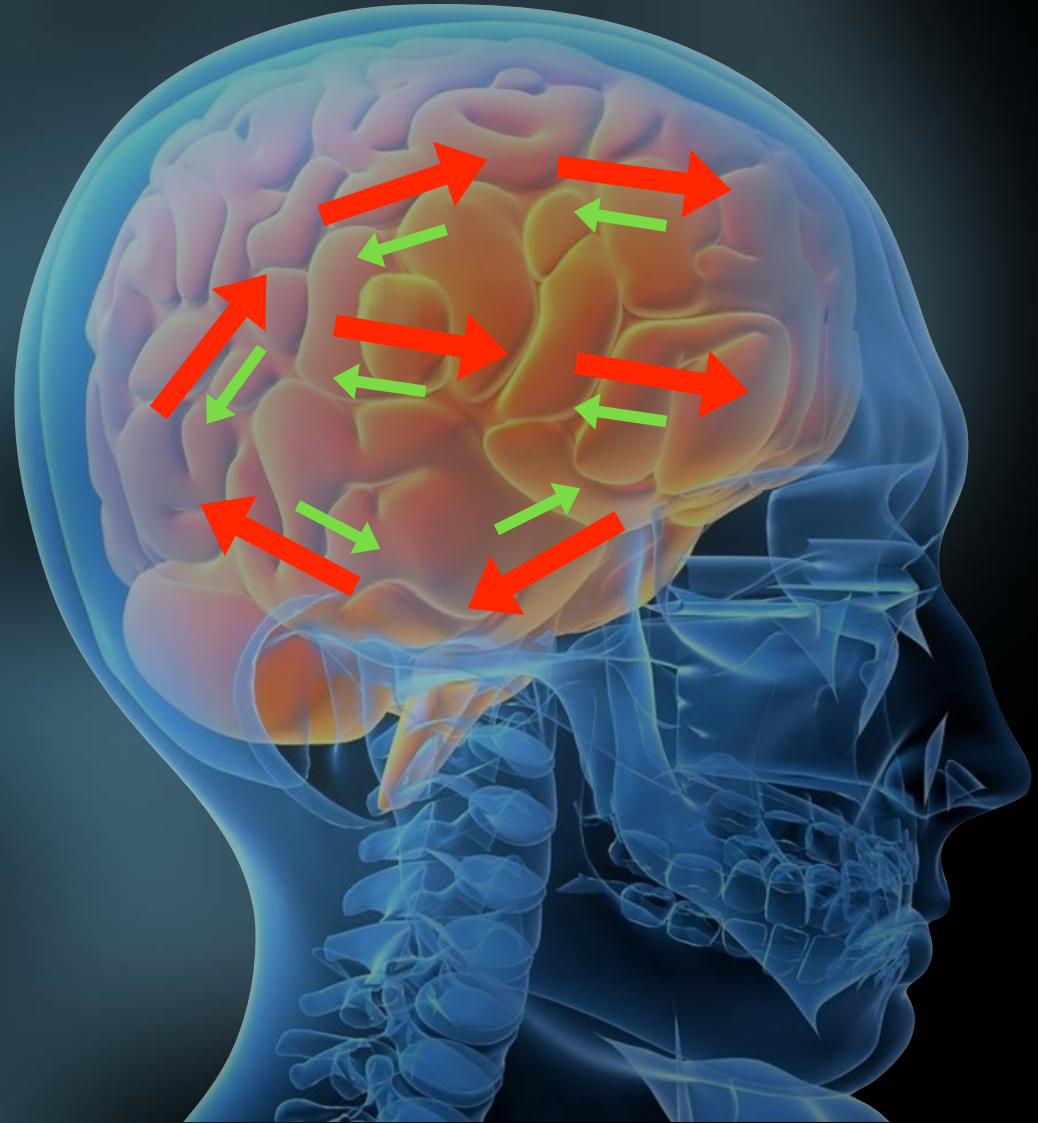


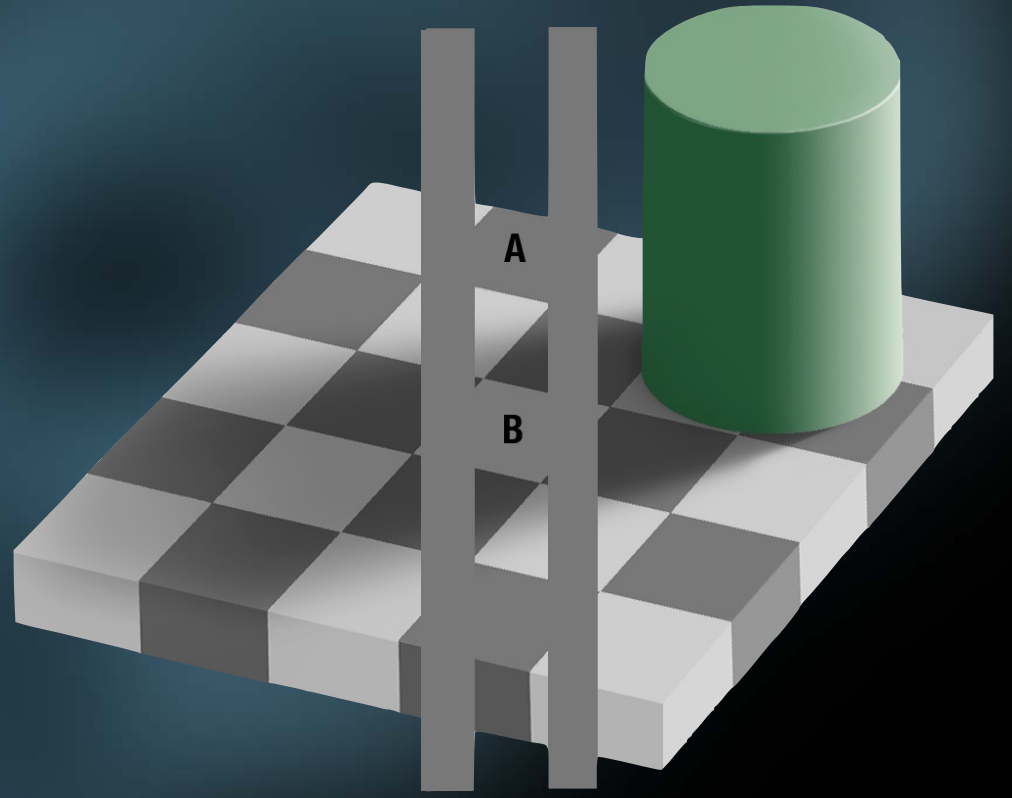
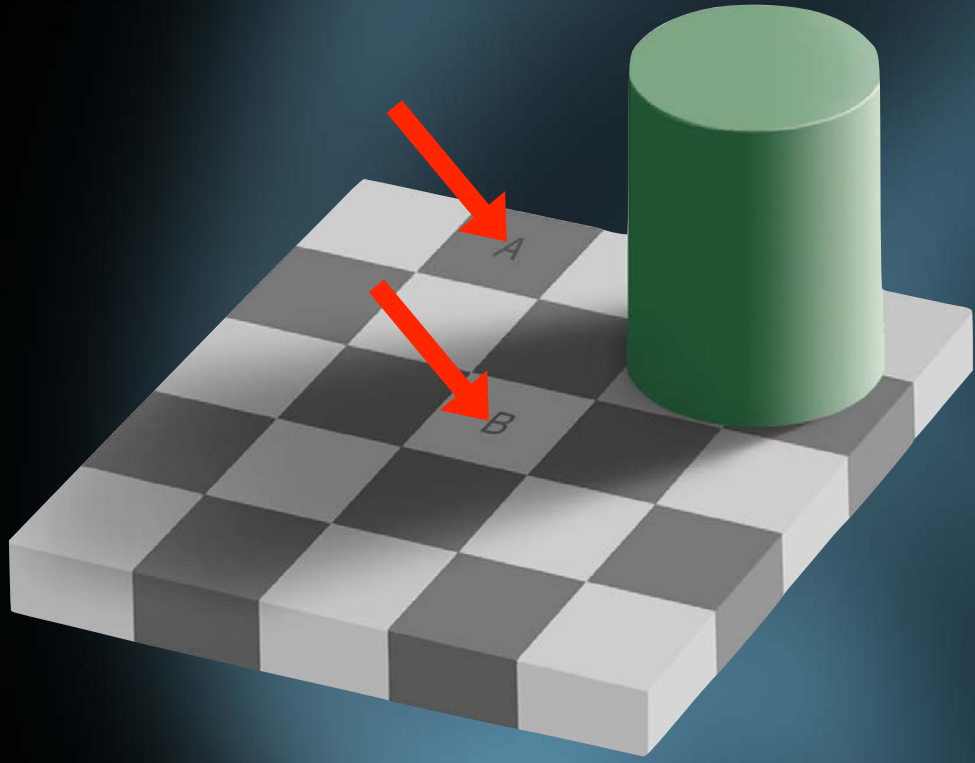




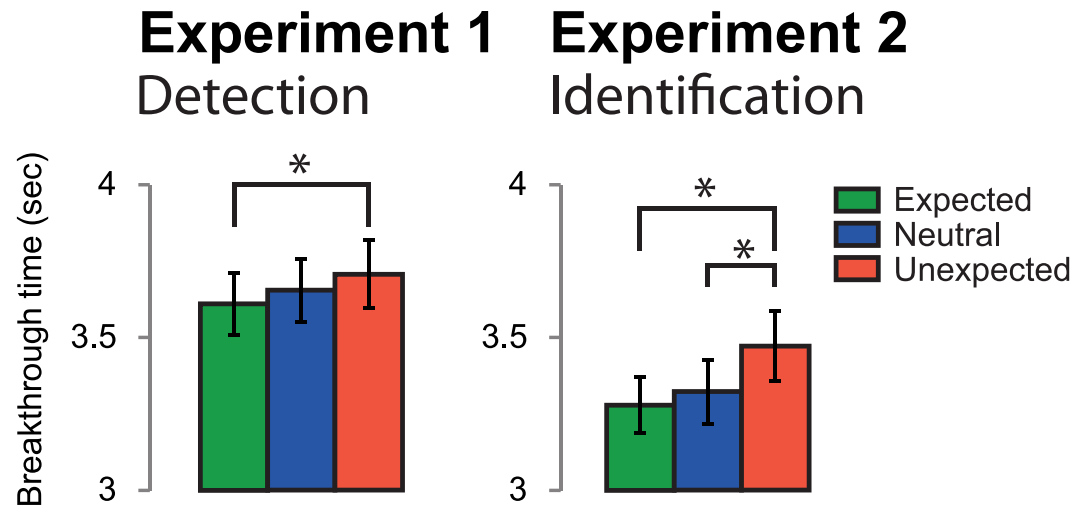
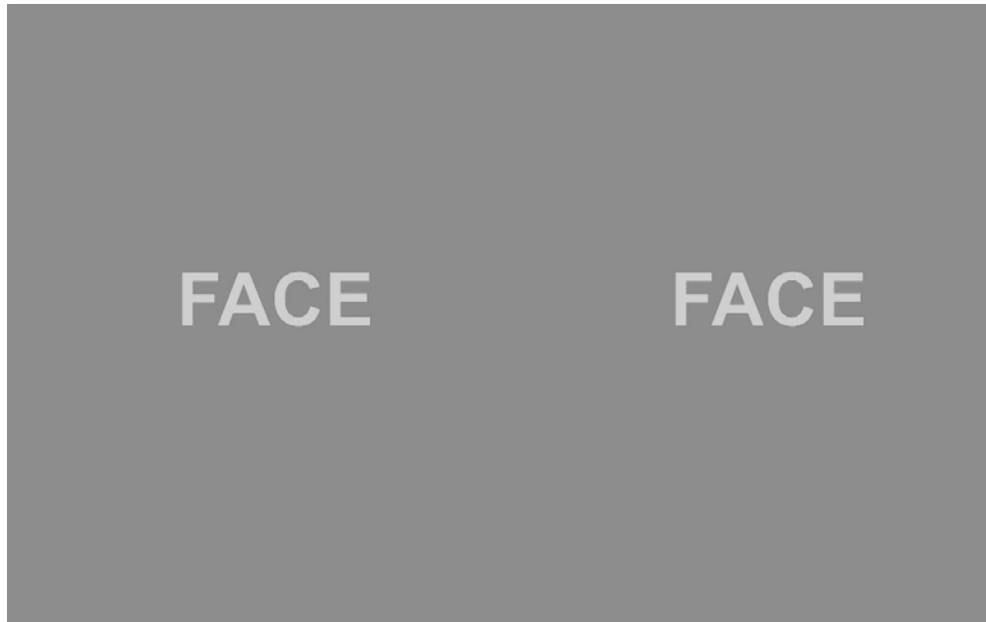
predictive processing

- perceptual content is conveyed by top-down predictions
- bottom-up 'sensory' signals convey prediction errors

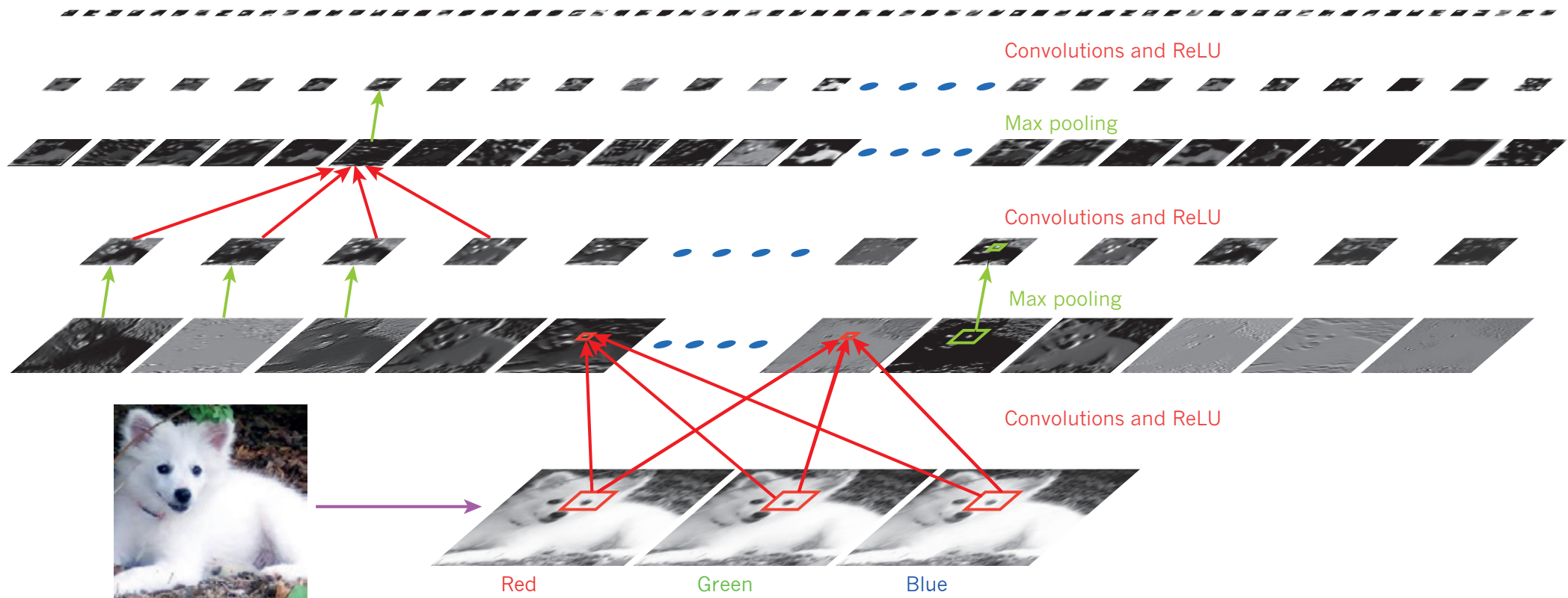




perceiving the expected



Pinto et al (2015) *Journal of Vision*



Le Cun et al (2015) *Nature*



Suzuki et al (2017) *Scientific Reports*

hallucination:
uncontrolled perception

perception:
controlled hallucination



sense of
reality

taste

smell

duration

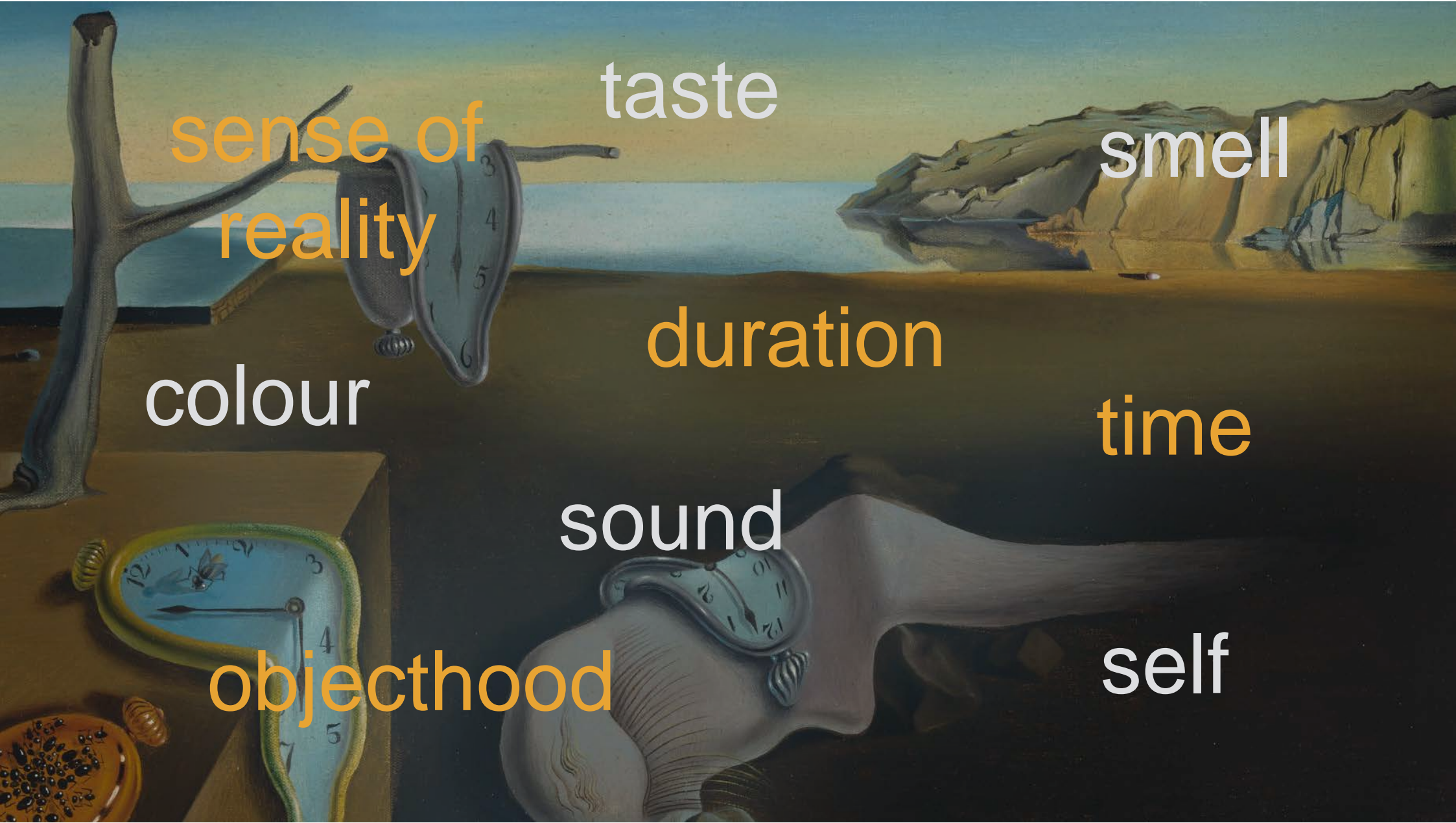
time

colour

sound

objecthood

self



sense of
reality

taste

smell

colour

duration

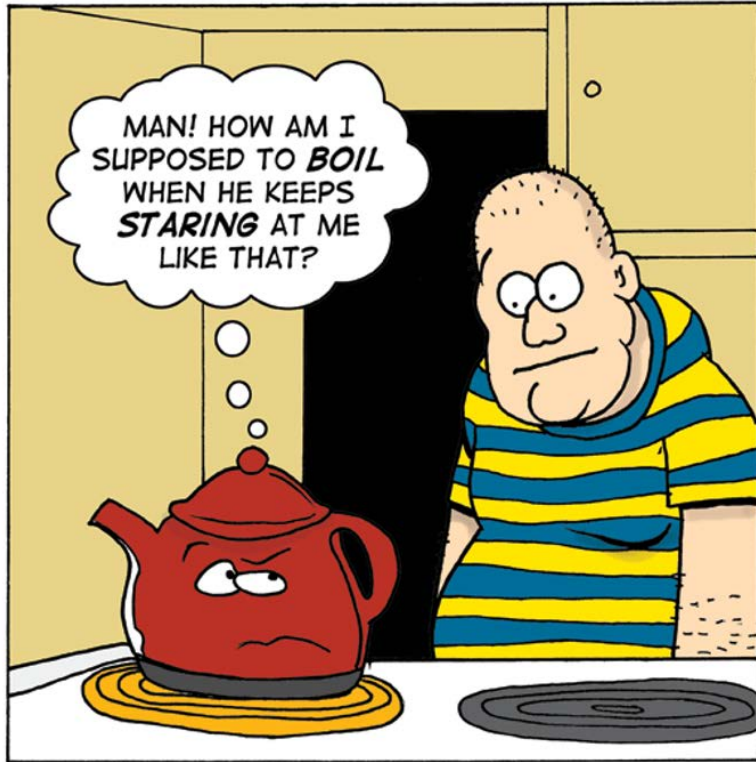
time

sound

objecthood

self

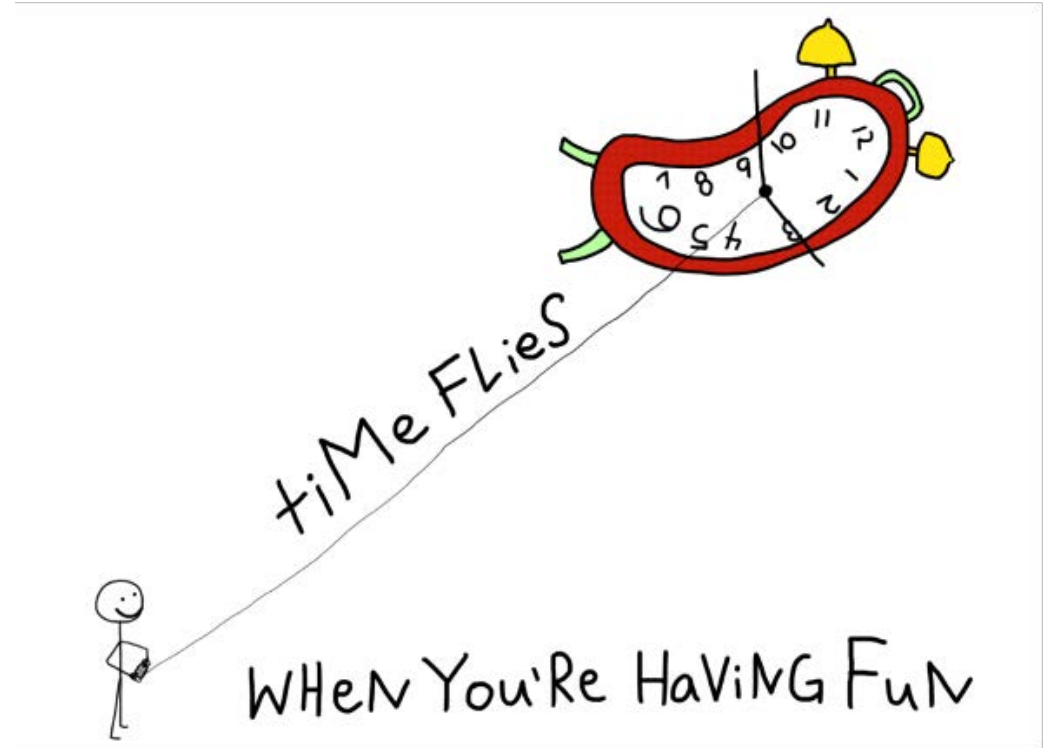
time perception



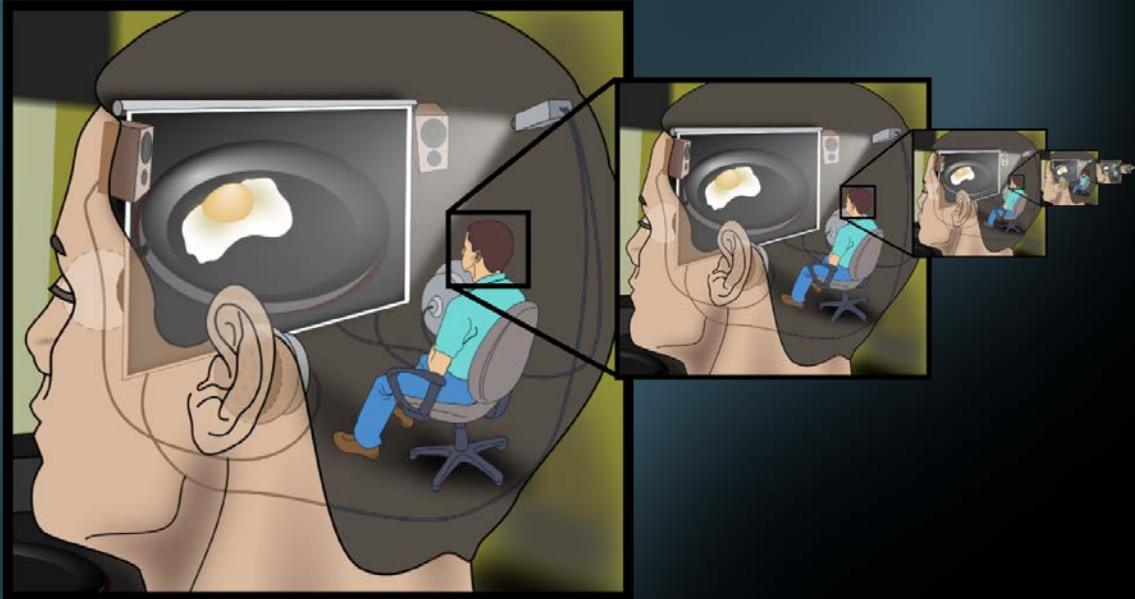
SPUDCOMICS.COM

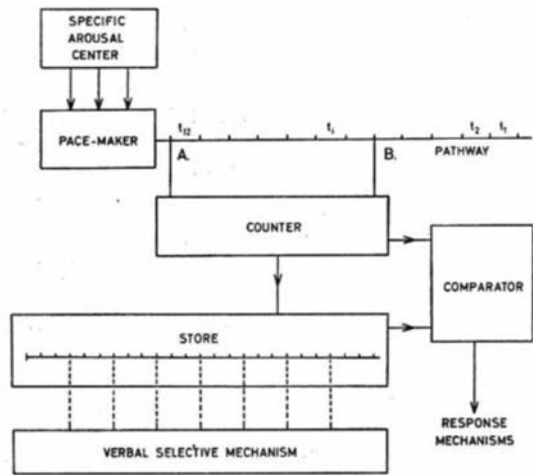
© 2013 LONNIE EASTERLING

PERFORMANCE ANXIETY

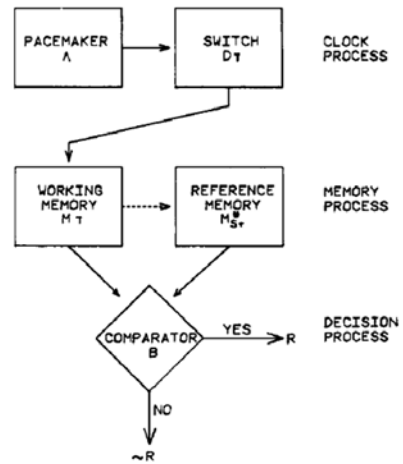


clocks in the head?

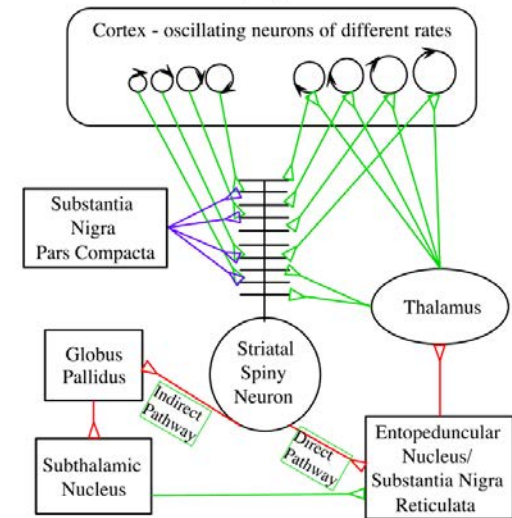
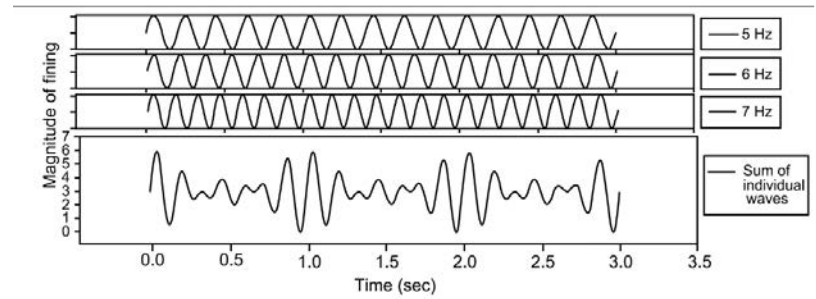




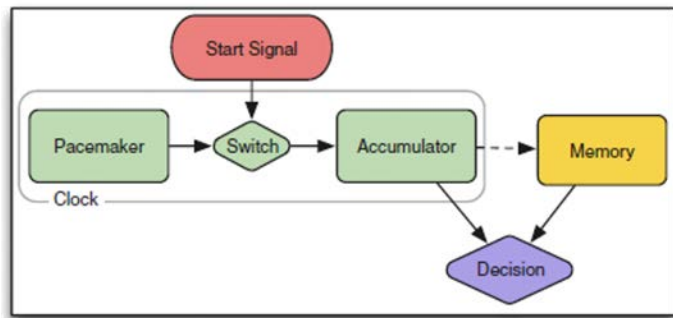
Treisman (1963)



Gibbon et al (1984)



Mattell & Meck (2004)



van Rijn et al (2014)

time perception

- **proposal**: subjective duration is based on accumulated salient perceptual change across multiple levels of processing
- not merely changes in low-level stimulus properties

Roseboom et al (2019) *Nature Communications*

Sherman et al (2022) *BioRxiv*

Fountas et al (in press) *Neural Computation*

study one

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-08194-7>

OPEN

Activity in perceptual classification networks as a basis for human subjective time perception

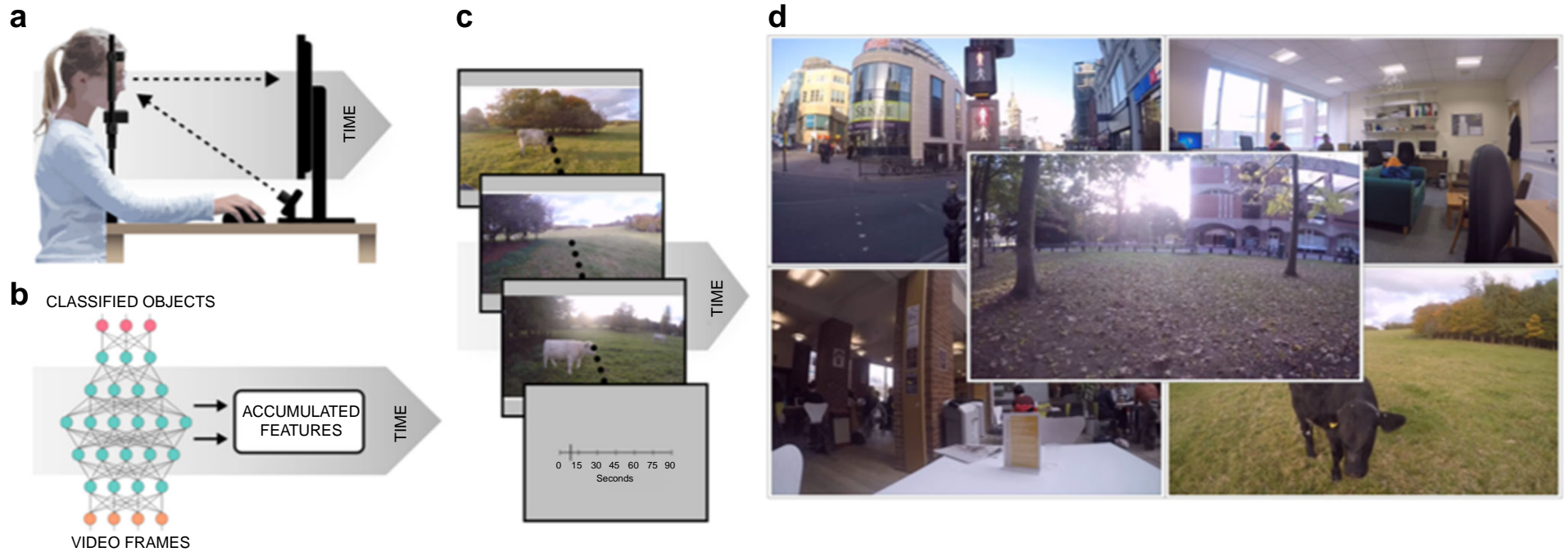
Warrick Roseboom^{1,2}, Zafeirios Fountas³, Kyriacos Nikiforou³, David Bhowmik³, Murray Shanahan^{3,4} & Anil K. Seth^{1,2,5}

Despite being a fundamental dimension of experience, how the human brain generates the perception of time remains unknown. Here, we provide a novel explanation for how human time perception might be accomplished, based on non-temporal perceptual classification processes. To demonstrate this proposal, we build an artificial neural system centred on a feed-forward image classification network, functionally similar to human visual processing. In this system, input videos of natural scenes drive changes in network activation, and accumulation of salient changes in activation are used to estimate duration. Estimates produced by this system match human reports made about the same videos, replicating key qualitative biases, including differentiating between scenes of walking around a busy city or sitting in a cafe or office. Our approach provides a working model of duration perception from stimulus to estimation and presents a new direction for examining the foundations of this central aspect of human experience.



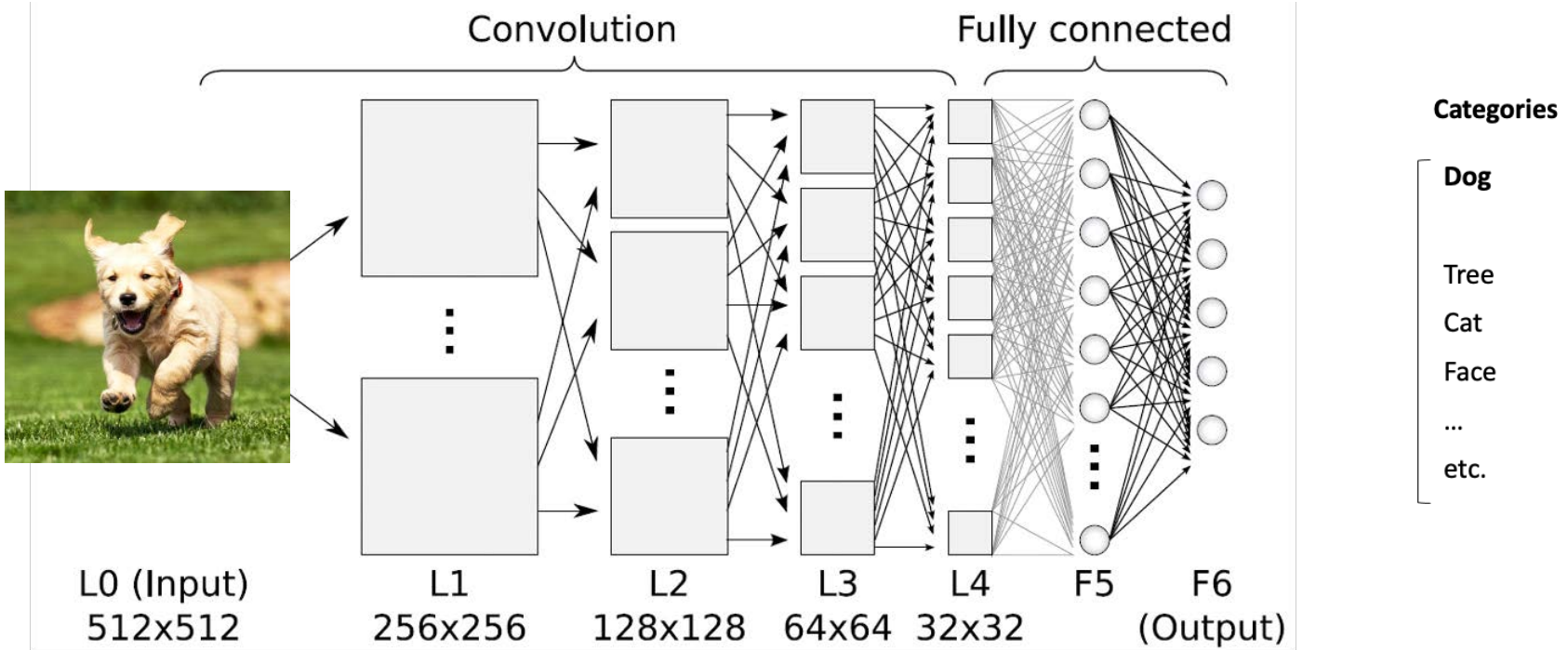
Roseboom W., Fountas, Z., Nikiforou, K., Bhowmik, D., Shanahan, M., & Seth, A.K. (2019) *Nature Communications*

paradigm

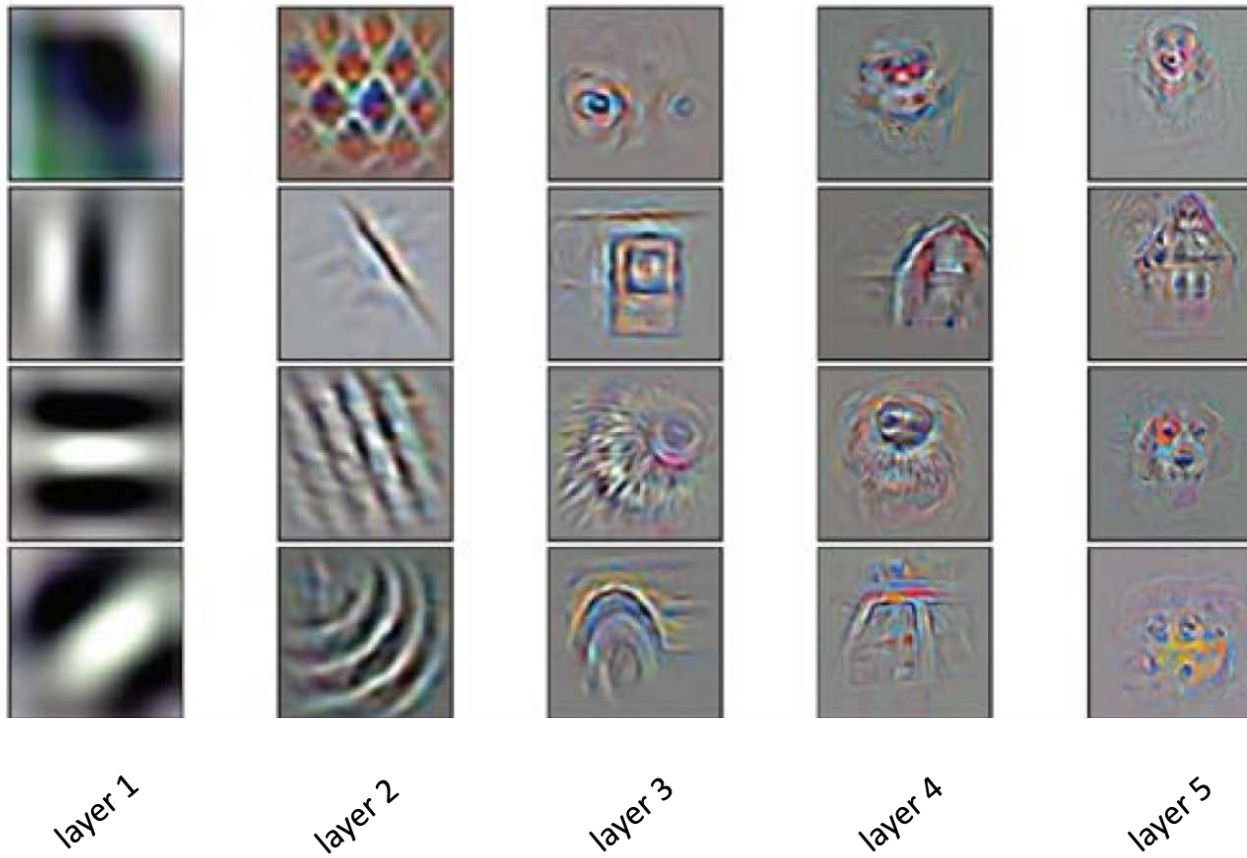


Roseboom et al (2019) *Nat Comms*

image classification



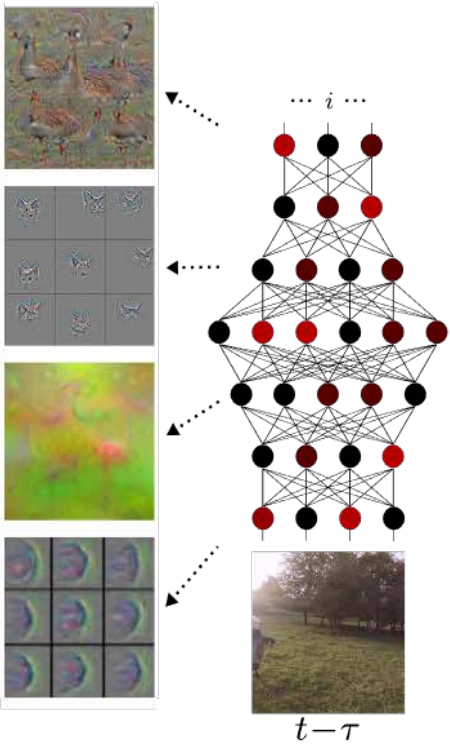
DCNN 'receptive fields'



Kriegeskorte (2015)

Guclu & van Green (2015)

computational model





Roseboom et al (2019) *Nat Comms*



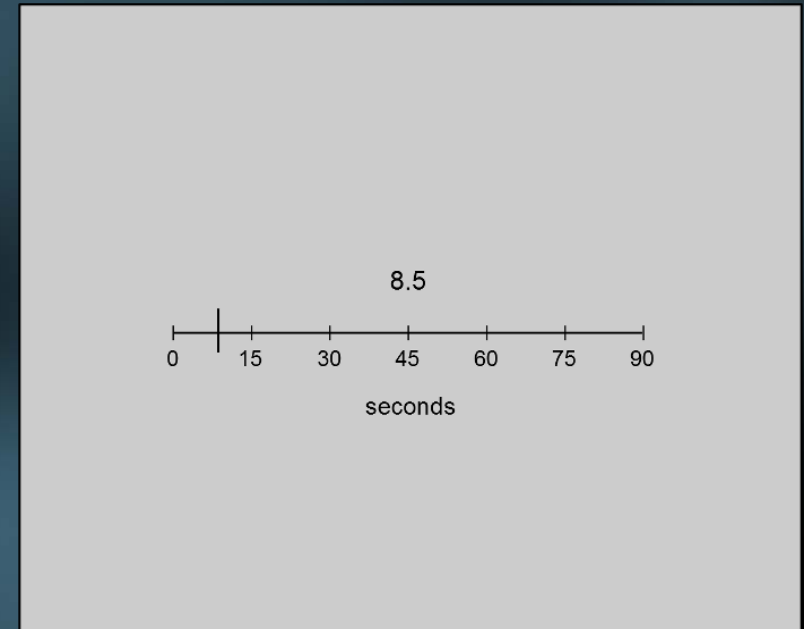
Roseboom et al (2019) *Nat Comms*



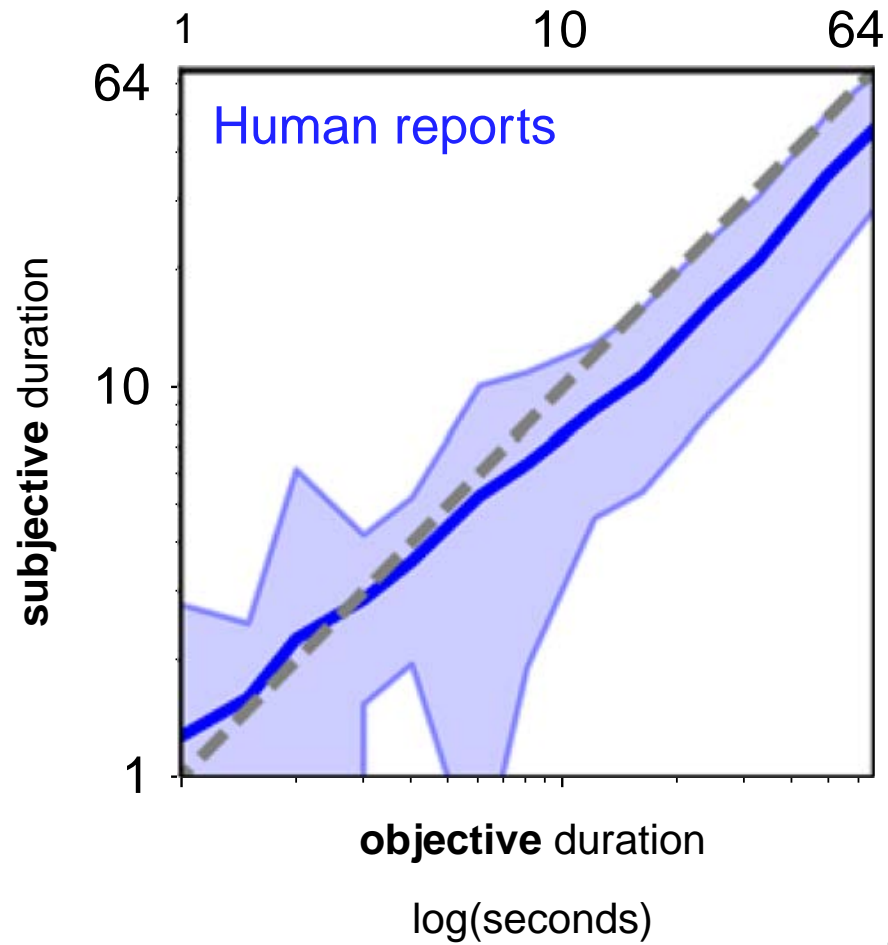
Roseboom et al (2019) *Nat Comms*

human experiment

- videos of (objective duration)
1-64 sec
- 4290 trials \approx 55 hours of data
- each participant completed up
to 1 hour of trials
- eye tracking also measured

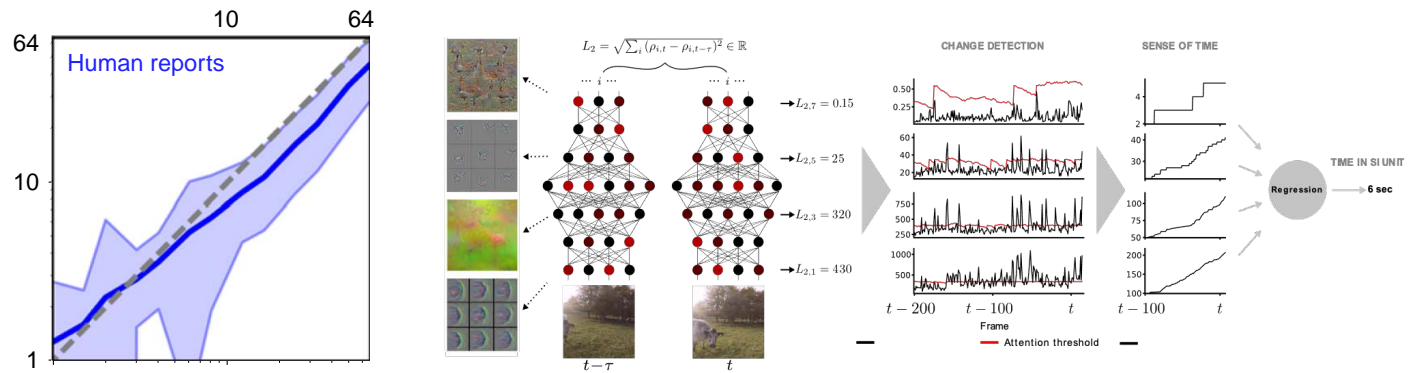


human experiment

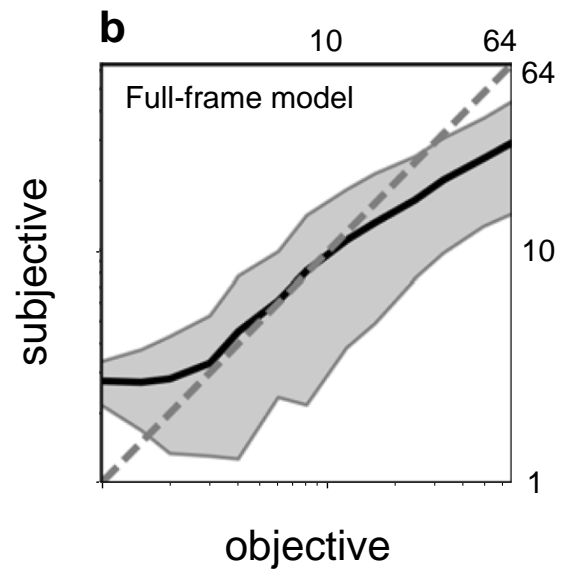
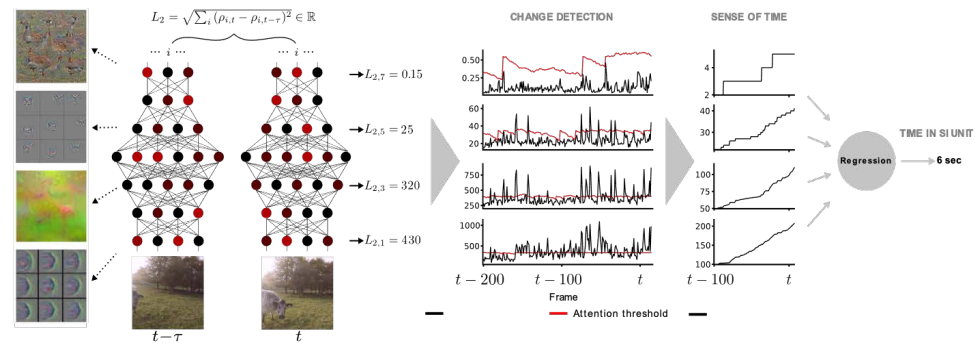
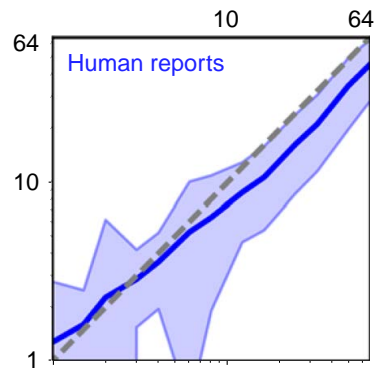


Roseboom et al (2019) *Nature Communications*

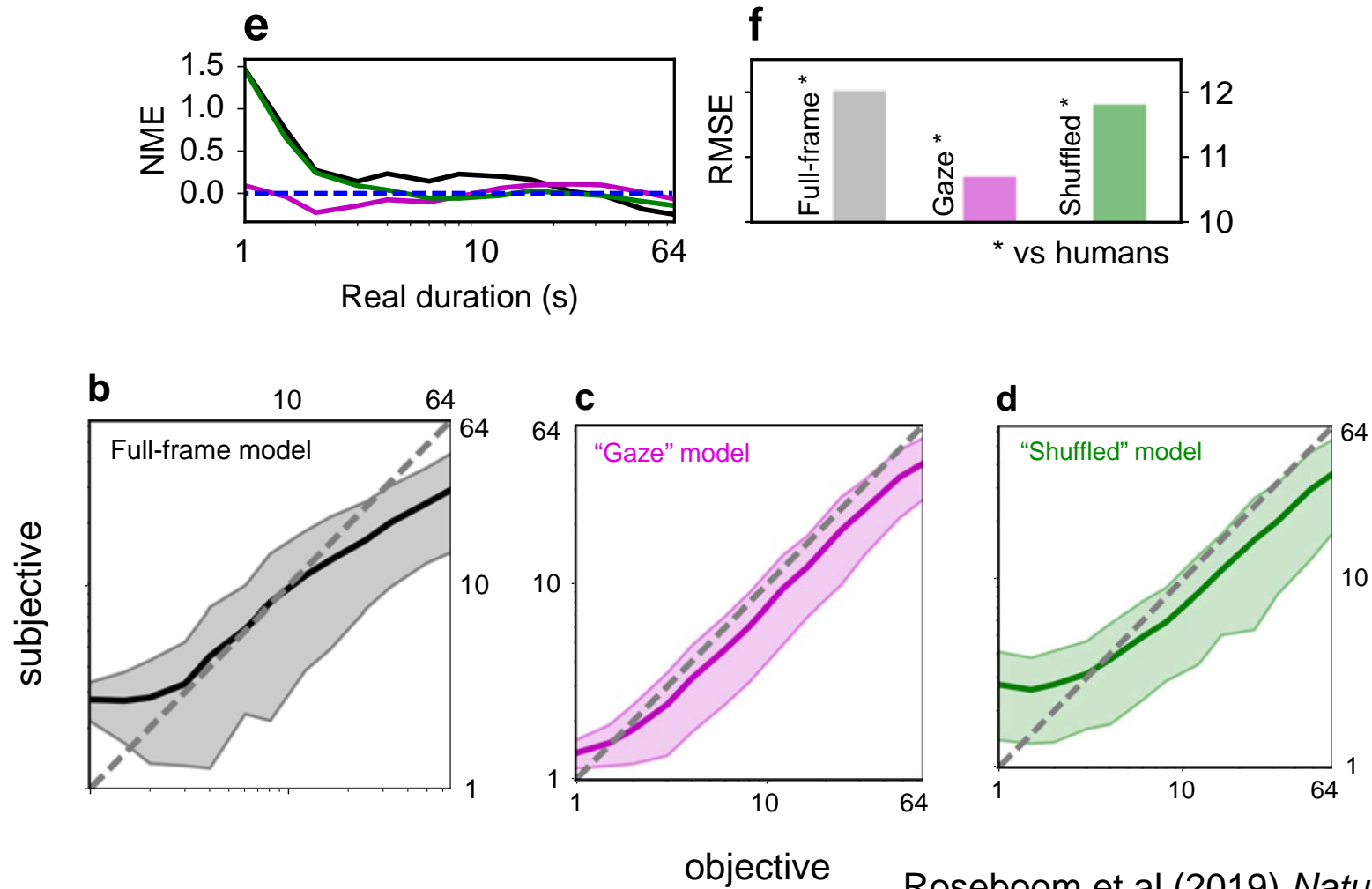
computational model



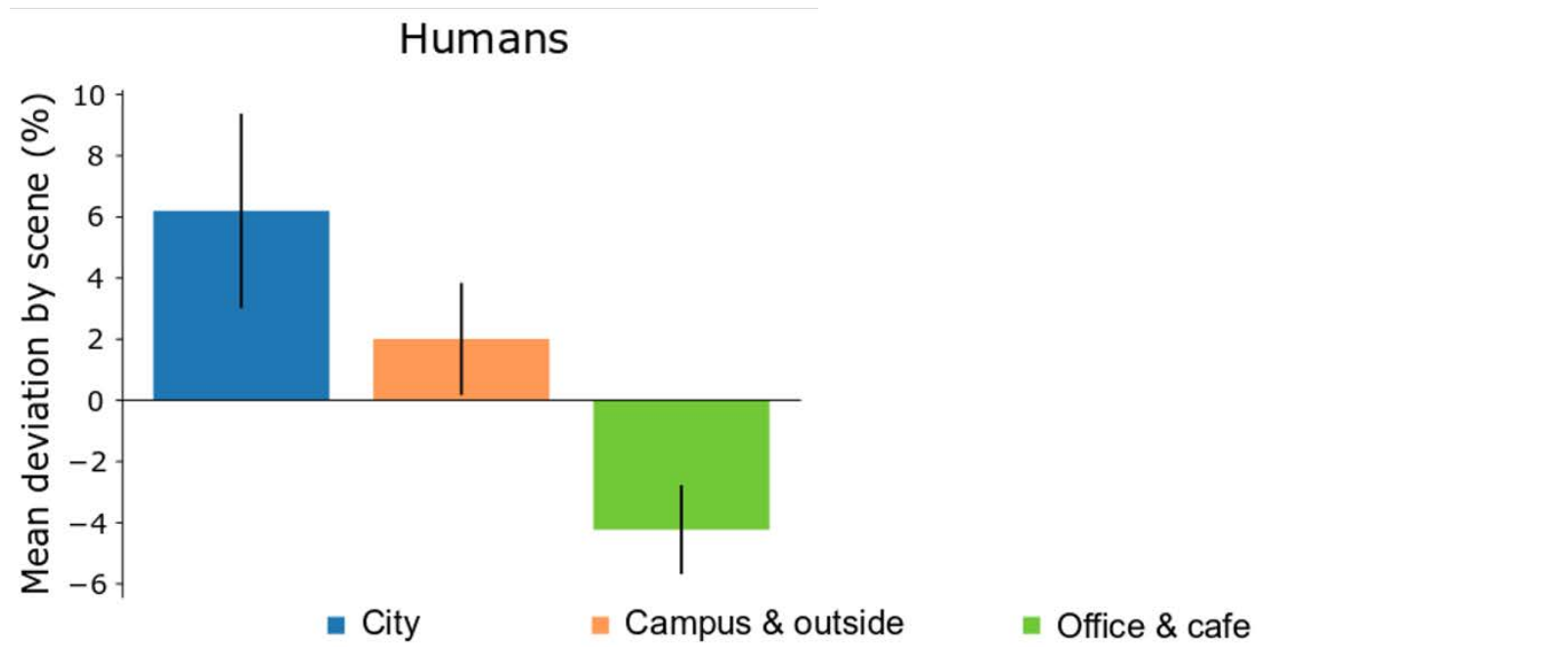
computational model



computational model



effect of context



study two



bioRxiv is receiving many new papers on coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. A reminder: these are preliminary reports that have not been peer-reviewed. They should not be regarded as conclusive, guide clinical practice/health-related behavior, or be reported in news media as established information.

New Results

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Accumulation of Salient Perceptual Events Predicts Subjective Time

Maxine T. Sherman, Zafeirios Fountas, Anil K. Seth, Warrick Roseboom

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.09.900423>

This article is a preprint and has not been certified by peer review [what does this mean?].

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Abstract

Human experience of time exhibits systematic, context-dependent deviations from objective clock time. For example, time is experienced differently at work than on holiday. The cognitive and neural bases of how time perception interacts with the content of experience remain unclear, and leading explanations of human time perception are not equipped to explain this interaction. We propose an alternative account of human time perception, based on the dynamics of sensory processing. Our approach naturally links content of experience with time perception through a common foundation in basic sensory processing. We provide evidence for this proposal in model-based analyses of the dynamics of perceptual processing in an artificial neural network and in the activity of human sensory cortex. Healthy human

Posted March 19, 2020.

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COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 preprints from medRxiv and bioRxiv

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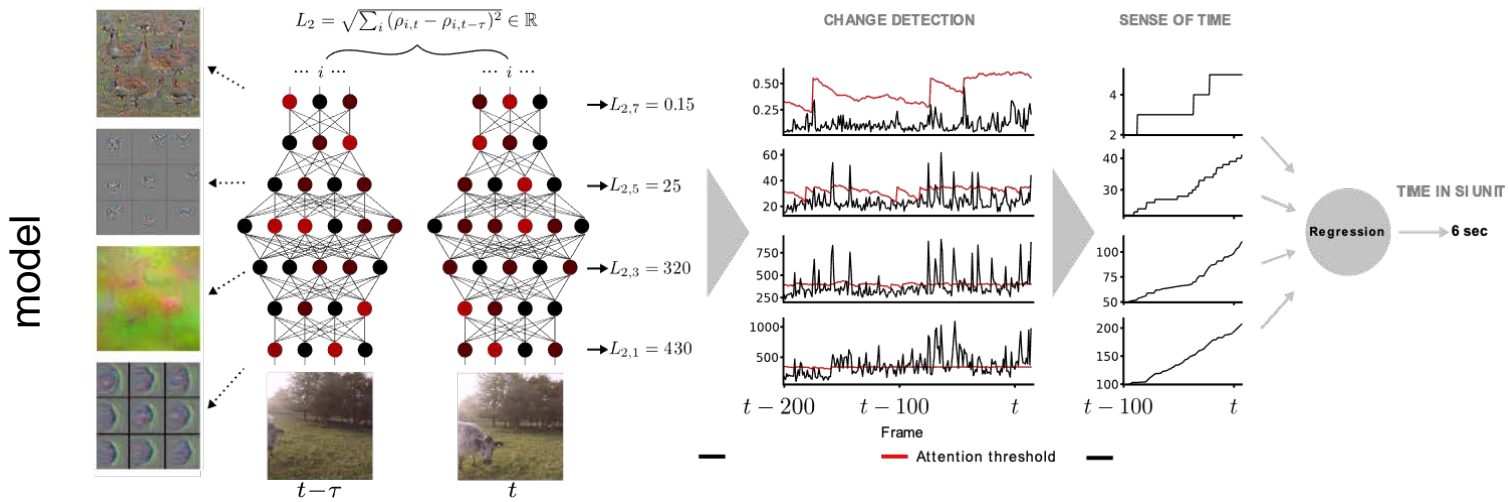
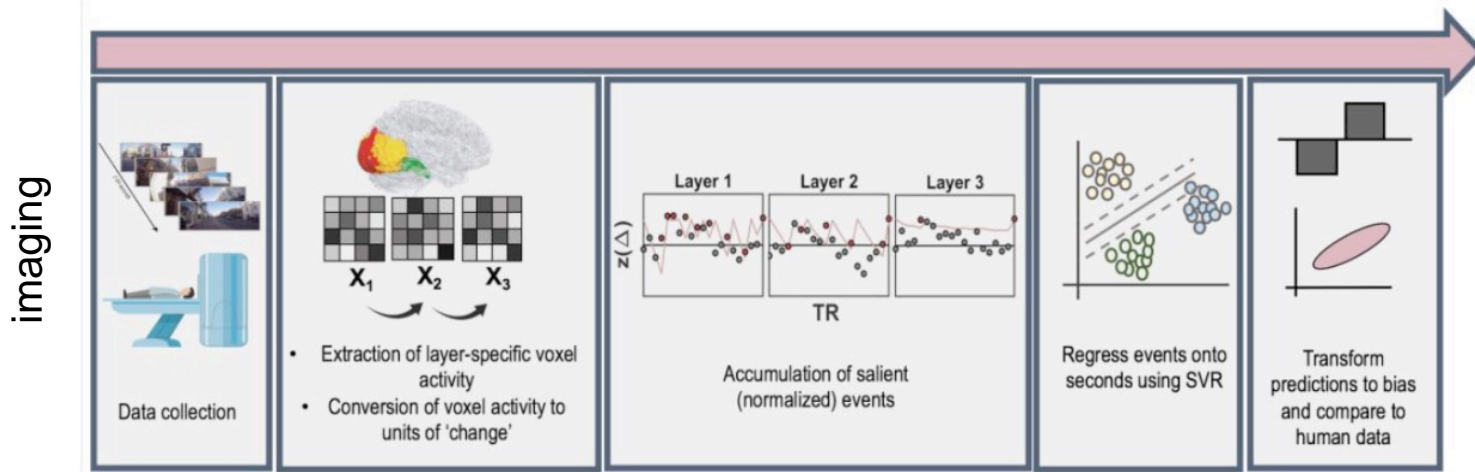
Maxine Sherman

Sherman, M., Fountas, Z., Seth, A.K., & Roseboom, W. (submitted)

imaging experiment

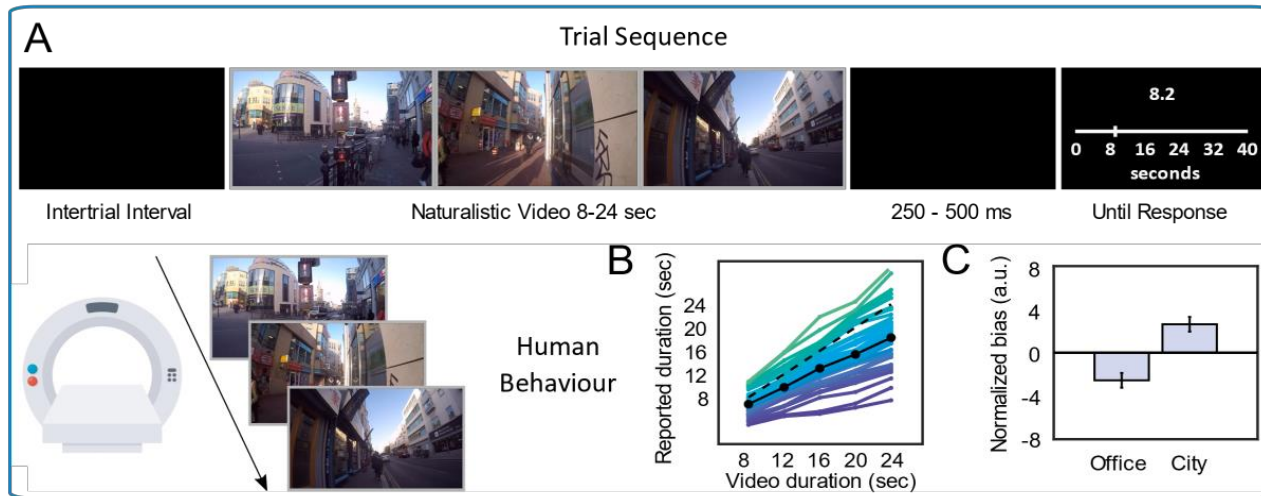
- videos of (objective duration) 8-24 sec
- city scenes and office scenes
- 40 participants
- record estimated duration and calculate scene-wise bias

neuroimaging study



Sherman et al (submitted)

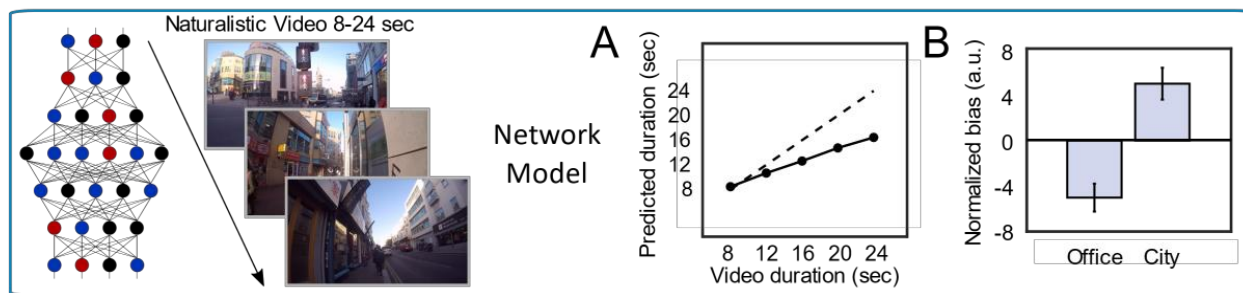
behavioural results



A. Naturalistic videos and ratings scale, presented while subjects were scanned using fMRI.

B. Participant-wise relationship between real and estimated duration, w/ mean and (dashed) line-of-unity.

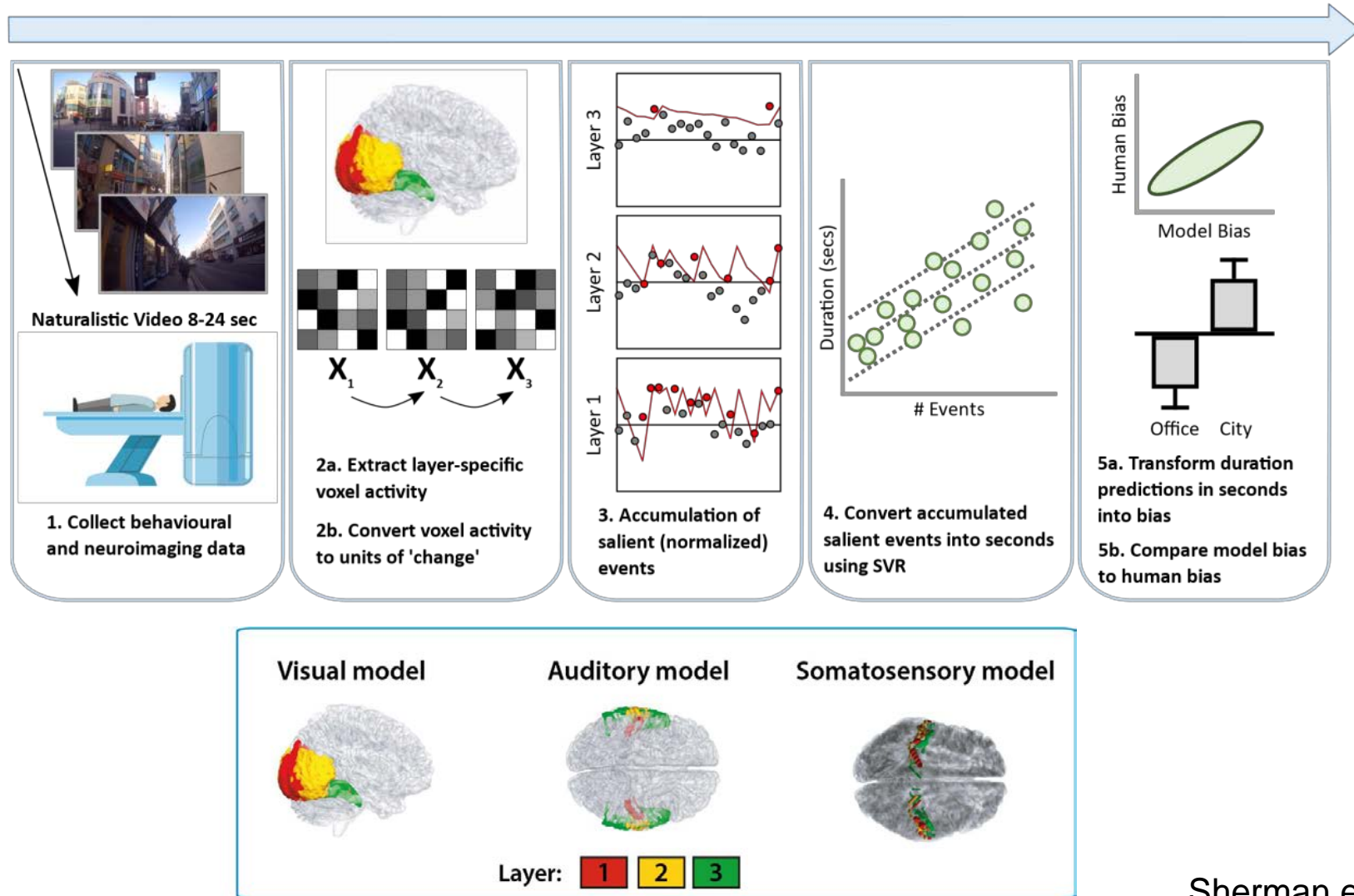
C. Relative over/under-estimation for office vs city scenes (+/- SEM)



A. Relationship between real and model-estimate duration (with line-of-unity).

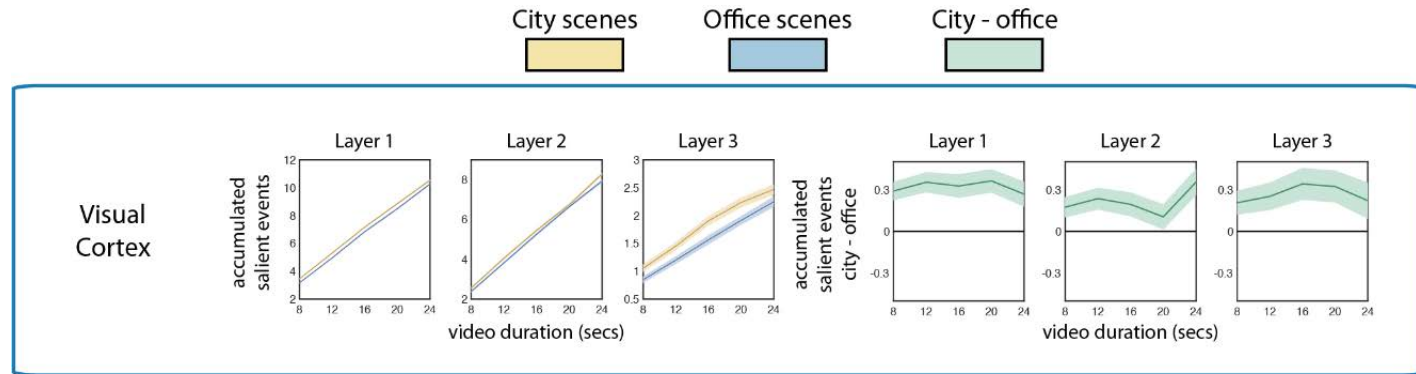
C. Relative over/under-estimation for office vs city scenes, for model

model-based fMRI

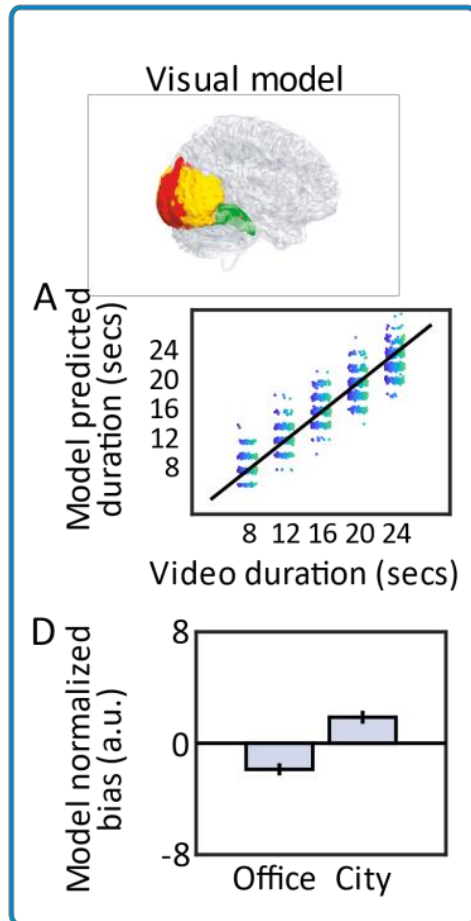


Sherman et al (submitted)

model-based fMRI



model-based fMRI



study three

A predictive processing model of episodic memory and time perception

Zafeirios Fountas^{1,2}, Anastasia Sylaidi³, Kyriacos Nikiforou⁴, Anil K. Seth^{5,6},
Murray Shanahan⁴, and Warrick Roseboom⁵

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²*Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, Institute of Neurology, University College London, London, UK*

³*Spike AI Research Labs, London, UK*

⁴*Department of Computing, Imperial College London, London, UK*

⁵*Department of Informatics and Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science, University of Sussex, Sussex, UK*

⁶*Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) Program on Brain, Mind, and Consciousness, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

March 28, 2022

Abstract

Human perception and experience of time is strongly influenced by ongoing stimulation, memory of past experiences, and required task context. When paying attention to time, time experience seems to expand; when distracted, it seems to contract. When considering time based on memory, the experience may be different than in the moment, exemplified by sayings like “time flies when you’re having fun”. Experience of time also depends on the content of perceptual experience – rapidly changing or complex perceptual scenes seem longer in duration than less dynamic ones. The complexity of interactions between

1



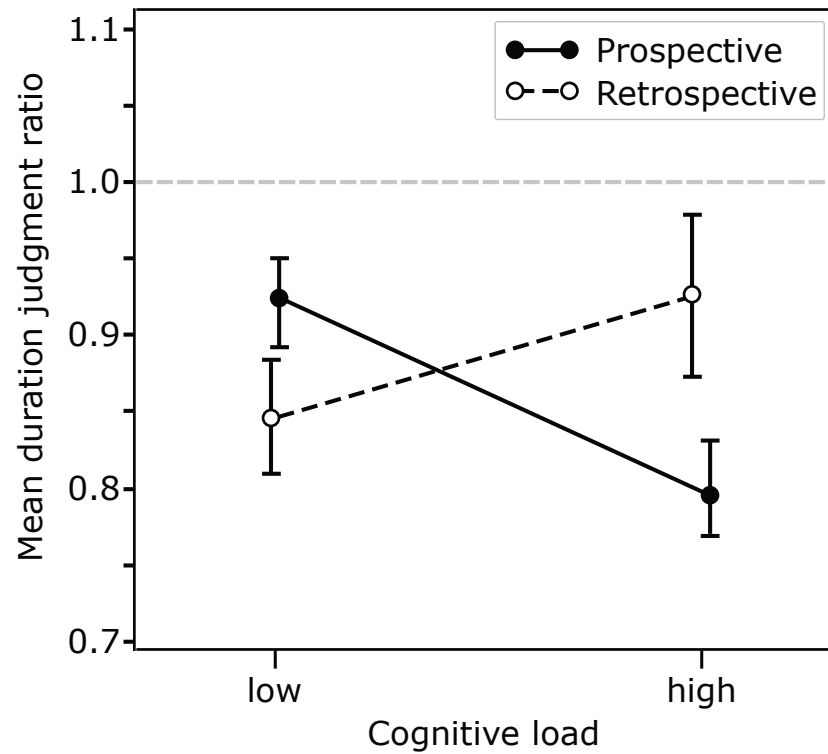
Zafeirios Fountas

Fountas, Z., Sylaidi, A., Nikiforou, K., Seth, A.K., Shanahan, M., & Roseboom, W. (in press) *Neural Computation*

time and memory

- computational model integrating hierarchical predictive coding, short-term plasticity, spatio-temporal attention, and episodic memory formation and recall
- behavioural (online) experiment with ~13,000 participants
- test whether model can replicate influences of
 - (i) cognitive load
 - (ii) scene type
 - (iii) prospective vs retrospective judgement

prospective vs retrospective time

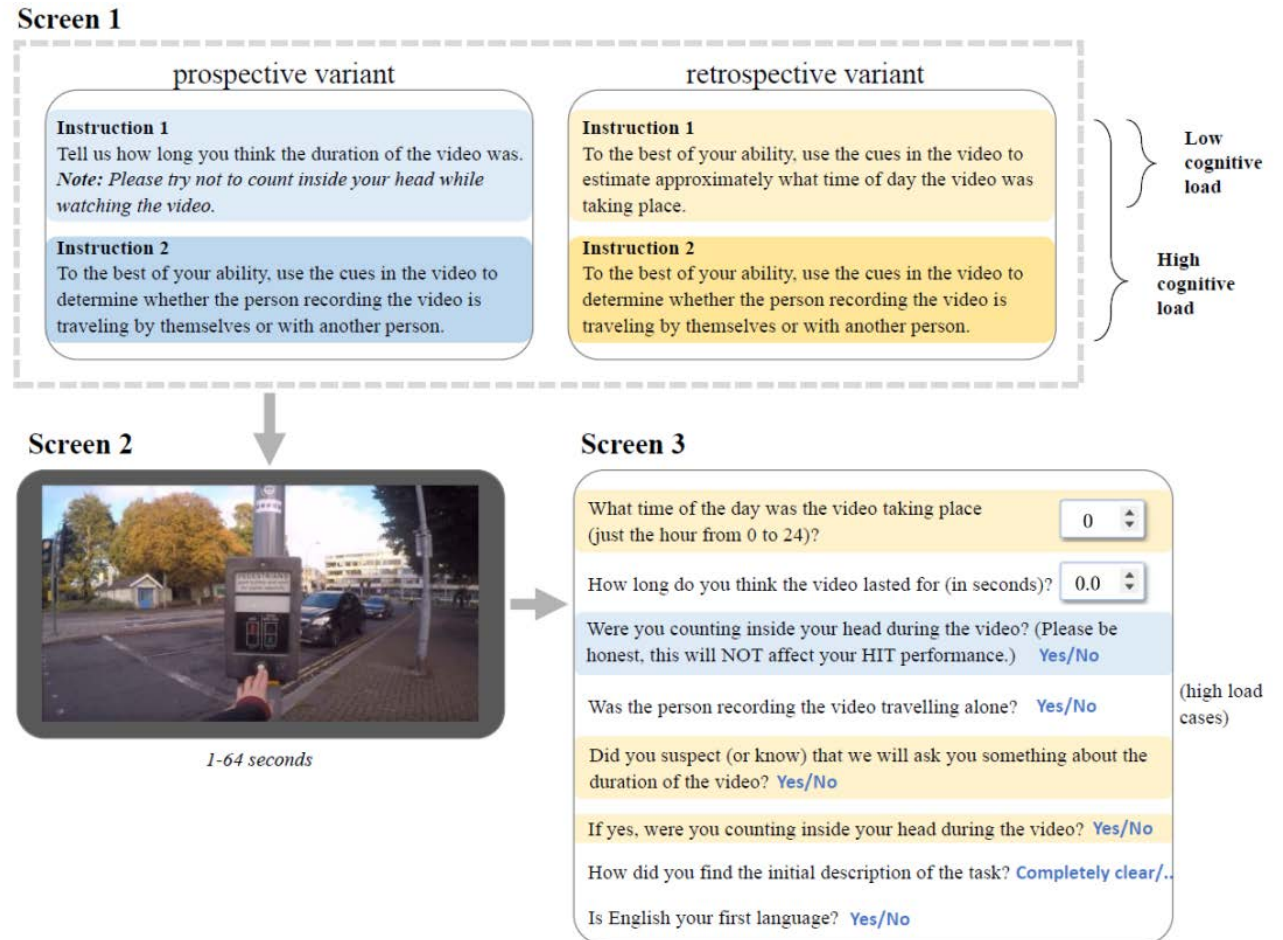


High cognitive load *decreases* apparent duration for *prospective* estimates ...

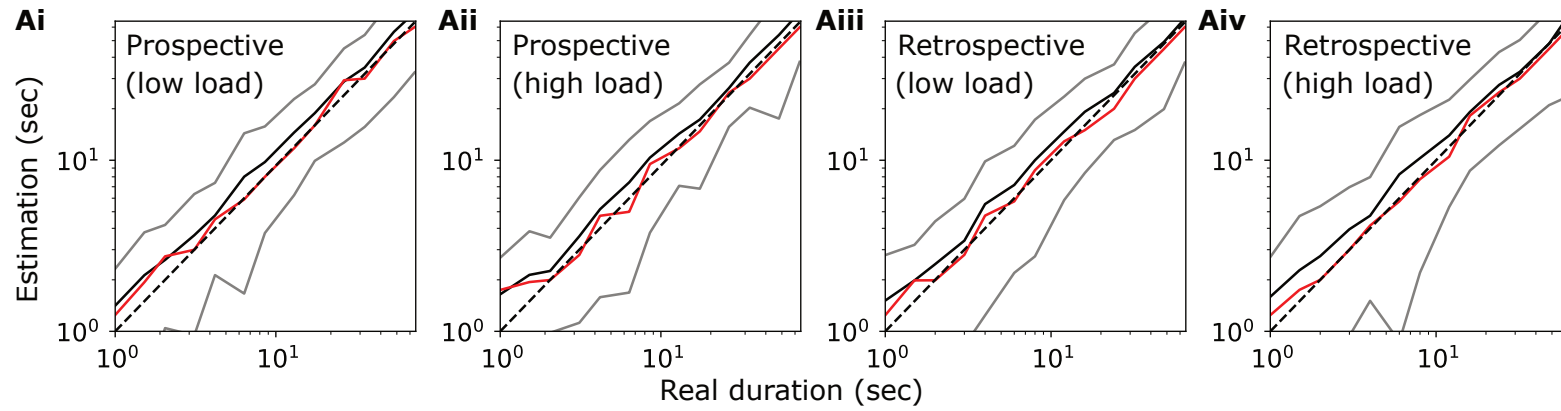
.... but *increases* apparent duration for *retrospective* estimates

behavioural study

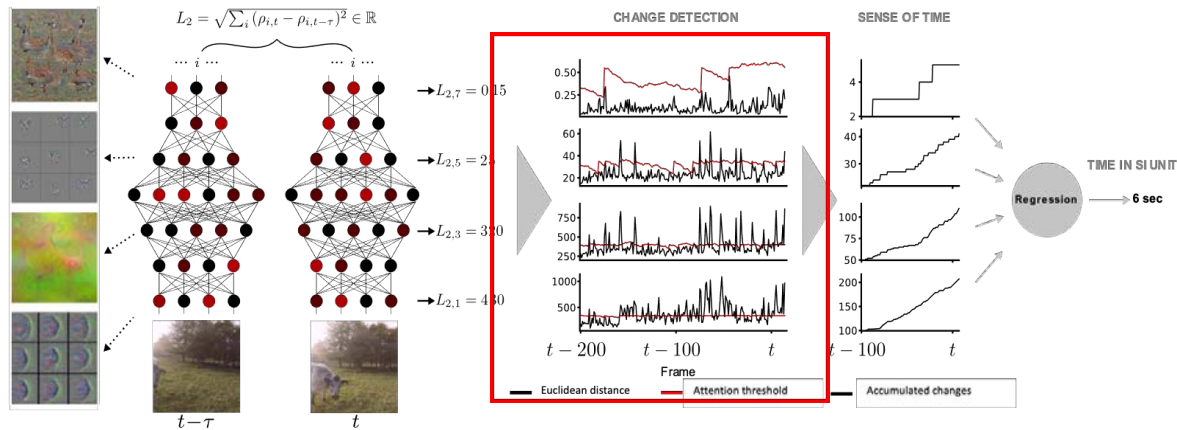
- ~13,000 participants, each performing one trial
- prospective vs retrospective
- high vs low cognitive load
- quiet vs busy scenes
- estimate duration



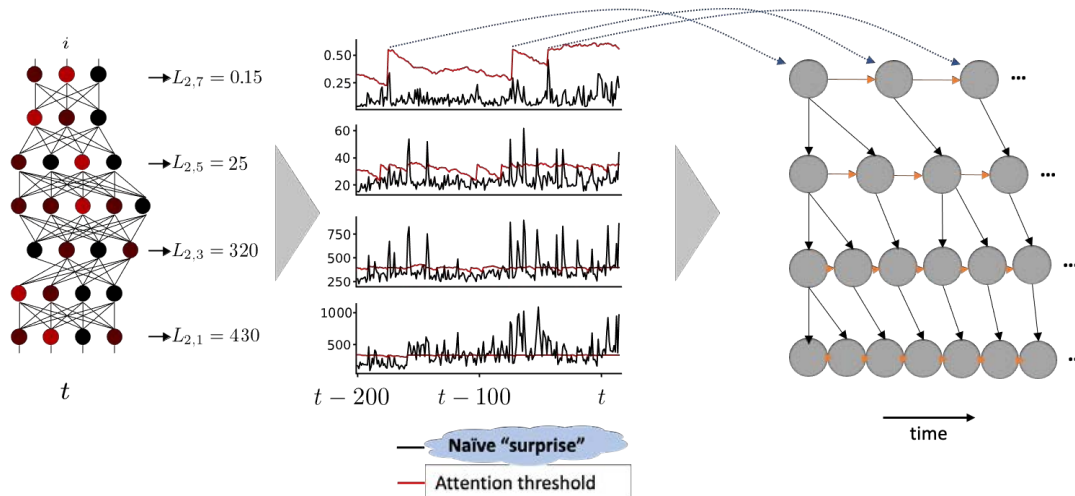
behavioural study



computational model: memory formation



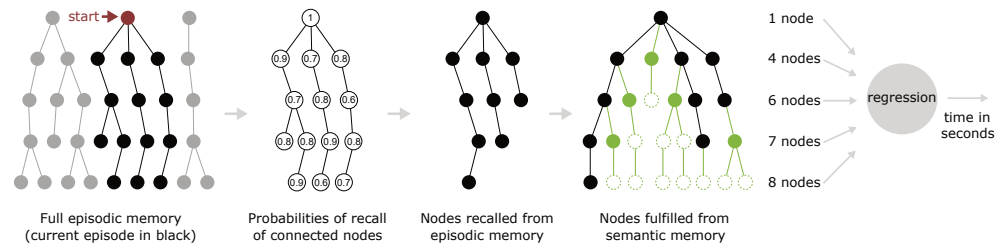
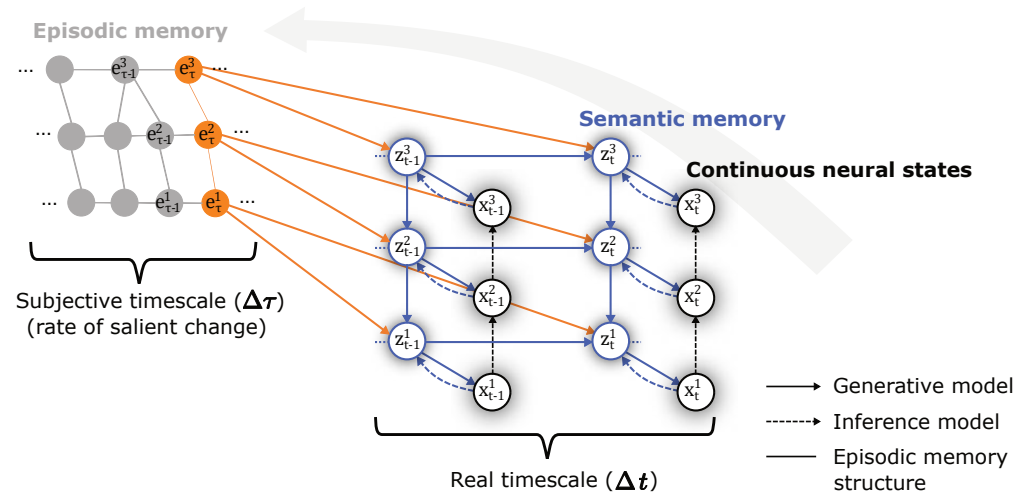
CHANGE DETECTION → memory formation → EPISODIC MEMORY



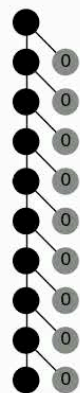
- use salient changes to trigger (hierarchical) episodic memory formation
- replace Euclidean distance with Bayesian prediction error

Fountas et al (in press) *Neural Computation*

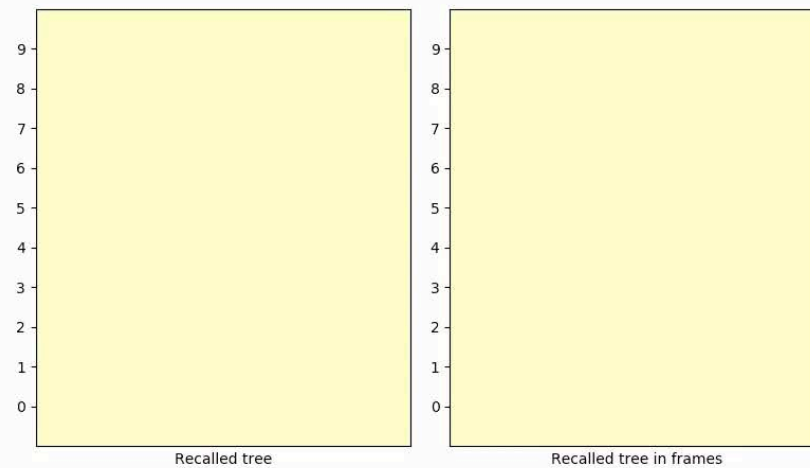
computational model: recall



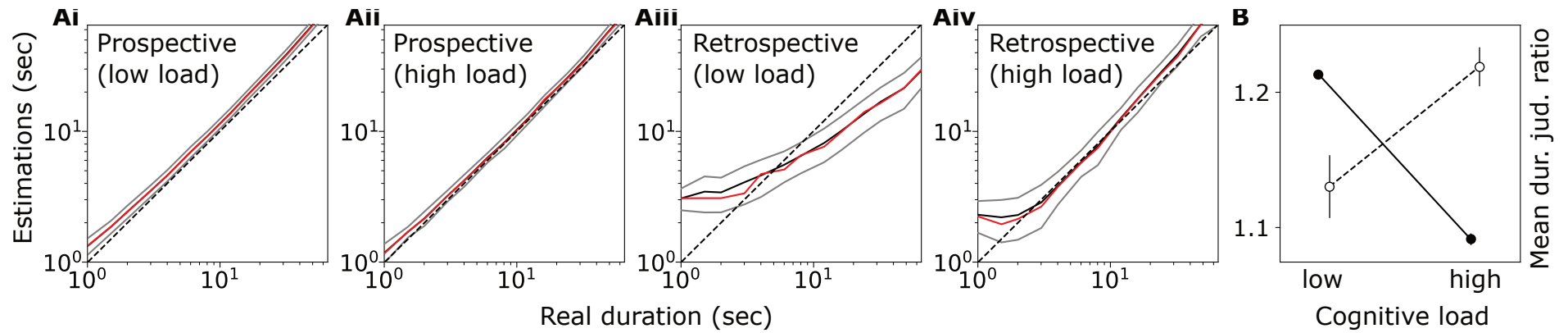
computational model: demo



Experience in layer 0



computational model: results



summary

- **study 1**: accumulated salient perceptual change provides a sufficient basis for human duration estimation
- **study 2**: this applies to the brain too, in a modality specific way
- **study 3**: extension of model to include episodic memory formation, to account for prospective vs retrospective judgements

Roseboom et al (2019) *Nature Communications*

Sherman et al (2022) *BioRxiv*

Fountas et al (in press) *Neural Computation*

dreamachine &
perception census

dreamachine

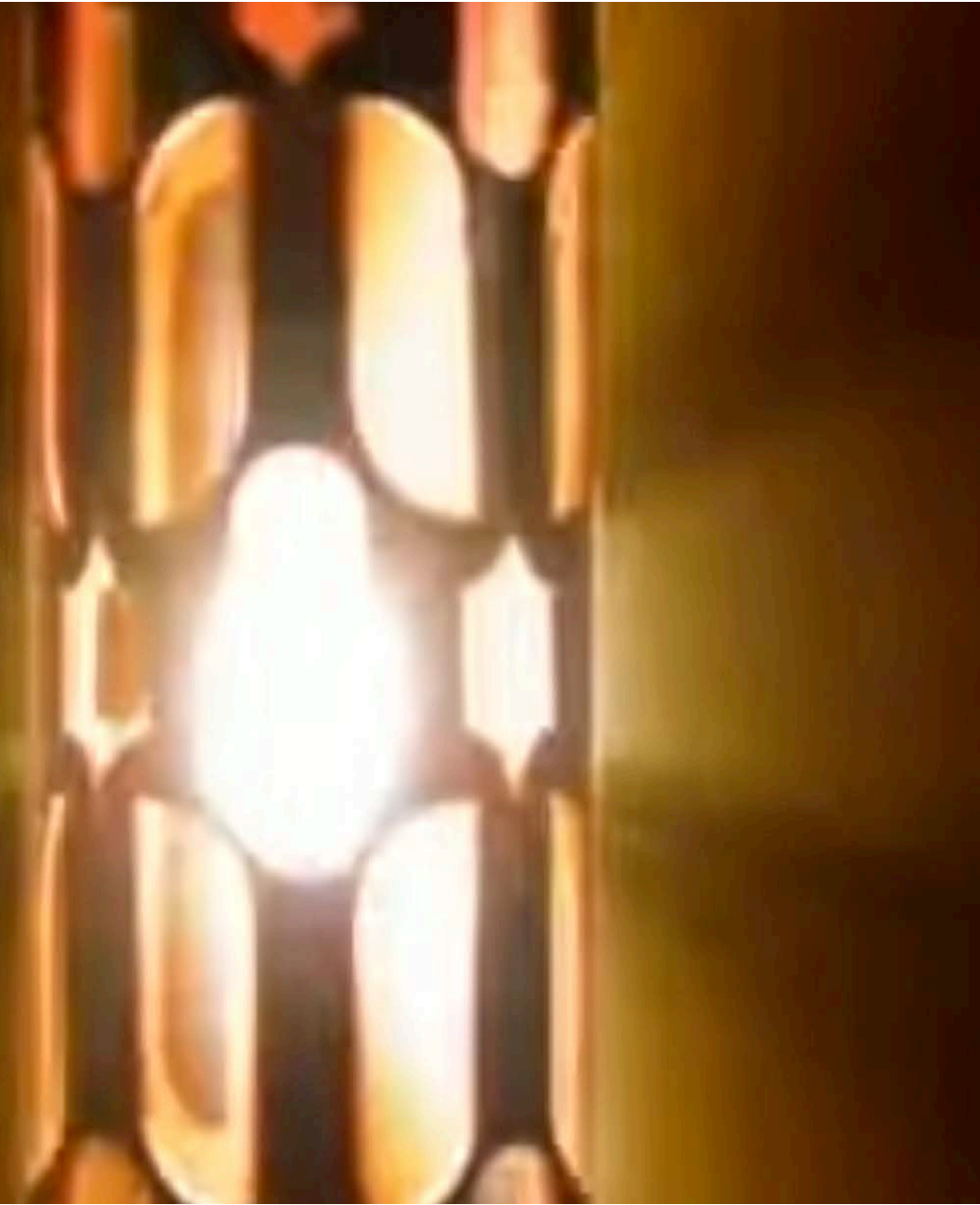
dreamachine Presented by COLLECTIVE ACT

UNBOXED
CREATIVITY IN THE UK

Brion Gysin

“You are the artist ... what the Dreamachine incites you to see is yours.”

From *Flicker* (1997), dir. Nic Sheehan

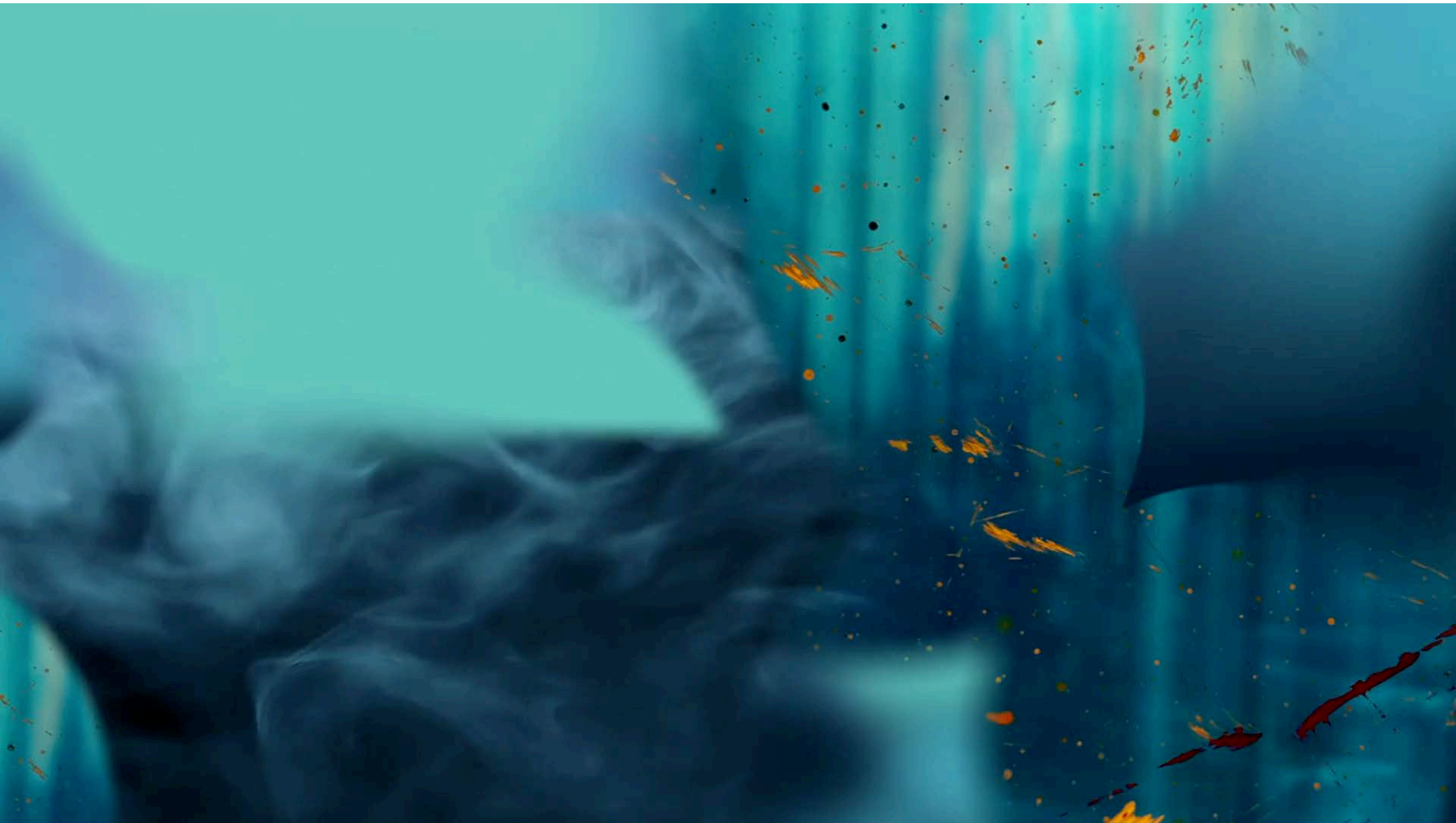


stroboscopically-induced hallucinations

- Lucia No.3 strobe light
- see most effects between 8-20 Hz
- EEG data shows substantial entrainment
- EEG data shows potential increases in complexity/entropy

dreamachine

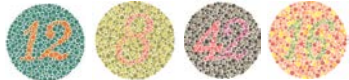


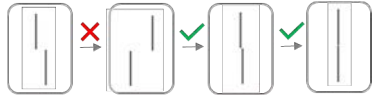


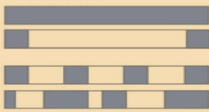
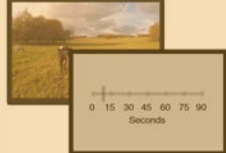
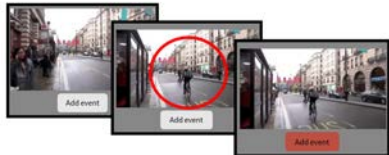


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perception census

vi = visual impairments
 hi = hearing impairments
 ni = no impairments

<p>1. Colour perception – hi & ni</p> <p>Ishihara test – report what number is presented</p>  <p>Favourite colour – pick preferred colour</p> 		<p>2. Imagery – vi, hi, ni</p> <p>Imagery snapshot – self-report of imagery vividness</p> <p>How vivid is your mental imagery? 1-10 scale: no mind's eye to as vivid as real perception</p> <p>How vivid is your auditory imagery? 1-10 scale: no mind's ear to as vivid as real perception</p>		<p>3. Classic Psychophysics – hi, ni</p> <p>Visual size illusions – adjust size of the orange objects</p>  <p>Vernier acuity – report misalignment of the top line</p> 	
<p>4. Anomalous perception</p> <p>vi</p> <p>White Christmas task – report if you can hear WC</p>  <p>hi & ni</p> <p>VEARs – report experience of sound</p> 		<p>5. Time perception</p> <p>vi</p> <p>Sound duration estimation</p>  <p>hi & ni</p> <p>Video duration estimation</p> 		<p>6. Information sampling – hi, ni</p> <p>Event segmentation task</p> 	
<p>7. Phenomenological control – vi, ni</p> <p>Suggestibility primer Participants will be asked to use their imagination to create a certain experience. After that, participants will rate the report on their experience.</p>		<p>8. Synaesthesia – mostly for ni, some for vi & hi</p> <p>Synaesthesia quiz – explain synaesthesia is and outline different forms and ask people which, if any, they have</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Do letters have colours?</p>  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Do letters have personalities?</p>  </div> </div>		<p>9. Beliefs about consciousness</p> <p>2 items from the beliefs about consciousness survey</p>	

Baykova et al (in progress)

summary

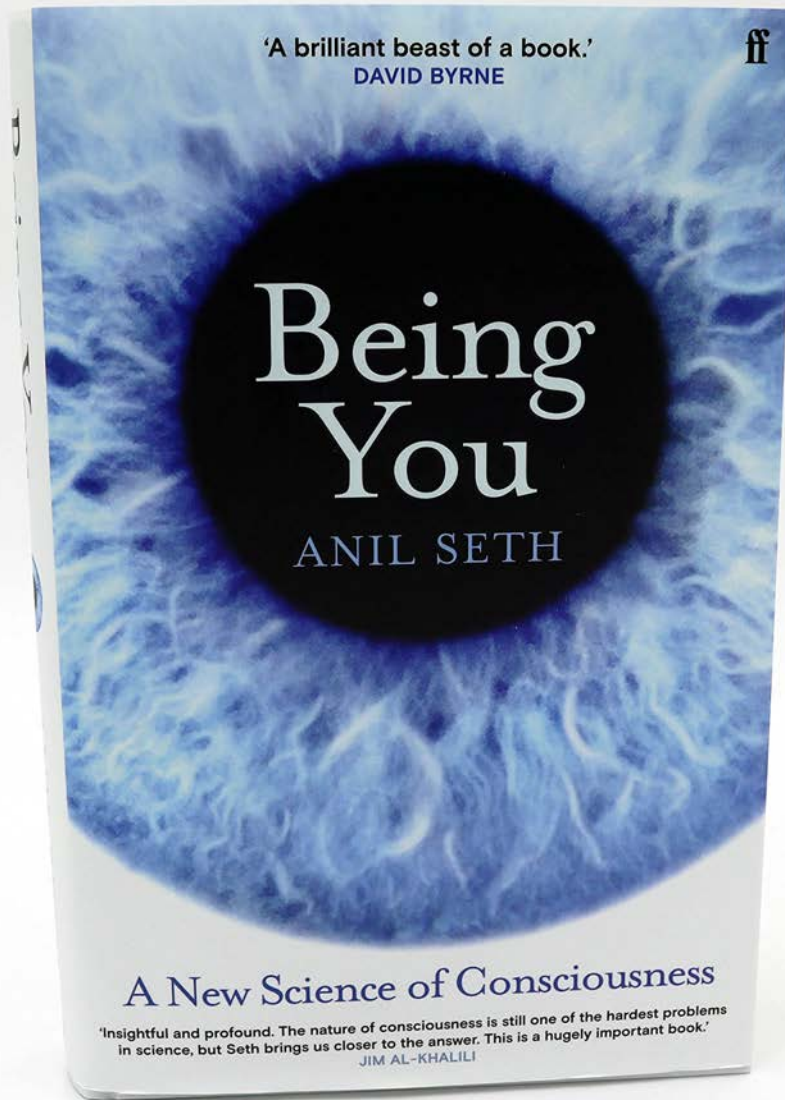
- study 1: accumulated salient perceptual change provides a sufficient basis for human duration estimation
- study 2: this applies to the brain too, in a modality specific way
- study 3: extension of model to include episodic memory formation, to account for prospective vs retrospective judgements
- **dreamachine**: a large-scale art-science project, and survey of perceptual diversity

Roseboom et al (2019) *Nature Communications*

Sherman et al (2022) *BioRxiv*

Baykova et al (in progress)

Fountas et al (in press) *Neural Computation*



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