#### CATEGORICAL PERCEPTION

#### The Groundwork of Cognition Edited by Stevan Harnad

How do we sort the objects, people, events and ideas in the world into their proper categories? What transforms the "blooming, buzzing confusion" that enters our eyes and ears when we are born into the orderly world we experience and interact with?

This most basic of questions about human (and animal) perception and cognition is the subject of this exhaustive survey of the findings in a diversified area of research known as "categorical perception." With contributions from a wide range of international experts, this volume brings together all the known examples of categorical perception, in humans and animals, infants and adults, in all the sense modalities: hearing, seeing and touch. The findings are then interpreted in terms of the available cognitive and neuroscientific theories of how categorical perception is accomplished by the brain.

This research on our elementary perceptual and psychophysical categories is then integrated with the work on higher-order categories: objects, patterns, abstract concepts. From a focus on the most thoroughly investigated case of categorical perception—speech perception—the book proceeds to an integrative view of categorization in

Categorical Perception will be of interest to cognitive scientists, neuroscientists, developmental and comparative psychologists, behavioral biologists, linguists, anthropologists and philosophers—and anyone concerned with category representation.

1987 599 pp. 26758-7 \$59.50

#### CONTENTS.

#### Introduction

Psychophysical and Cognitive Aspects of Categorical Perception: A Critical Overview Stevan Harnad

Psychophysical Foundations of Categorical Perception

Categorical Perception: Some Psychophysical Models Richard E. Pastore
Beyond the Categorical/Continuous Distinction: A Psychophysical Approach to Processing Modes Neil A. Macmillan

Categorical Perception of Speech
Phonetic Category Boundaries Are Flexible Bruno H. Repp & Alvin H. Liberman
Auditory, Articulatory and Learning Explanations of Categorical Perception in Speech
Stuart Rosen & Peter Howell

On Infant Speech Perception and the Acquisition of Language Peter D. Eimas, Joanne L. Miller, & Peter W. Jusczyk

Models for Speech CP

Neural Models of Speech Perception: A Case History Robert E. Remez

On the Categorization of Speech Sounds Randy L. Diehl & Keith R. Kluender Categorical Partition: A Fuzzy-Logical Model of Categorization Behavior Dominic W. Massaro

CP in Other Modalities and Other Species
Perceptual Categories in Vision and Audition Marc H. Bornstein
Categorical Perception of Sound Signals: Facts and Hypotheses from Animal Studies

Guenther Ehret
A Naturalistic View of Categorical Perception Charles T. Snowdon The Special-Mechanisms Debate in Speech Perception: Nonhuman Species and Nonspeech Signals Patricia K. Kuhl

Brain Mechanisms in Categorical Perception Martha Wilson

Psychophysical Indices of CP

Electrophysiological Indices of Categorical Perception for Speech Dennis L. Molfese
Evoked Potentials and Colour-Defined Categories D. M. Regan

Higher-Order Categories

Categorization Processes and Categorical Perception Douglas L. Medin & Lawrence W. Barsalou Developmental Changes in Category Structure Frank C. Keil & Michael H. Kelly Spatial Categories: The Perception and Conceptualization of Spatial Relations Ellen Bialystok & David R. Olson

Cognitive Foundations Category Induction and Representation Stevan Harnad

#### . COMMENTS .

"CATEGORICAL PERCEPTION offers a fine sample of the state of the art. Anybody who cares about cognitive science should have this stuff at his fingertips.

Jerry A. Fodor, Philosophy Department, CUNY Graduate Center

"[I am] very impressed by the magnitude and quality of the general enterprise . [CATEGORICAL PERCEPTION is] an important contribution to a fundamental problem in cognitive psychology.

George A. Miller, Psychology Department, Princeton University

[A]n impressive volume. Harnad's introduction is a particularly clear, economical and thorough survey of the field, its current state and its importance, in his usual crisp and entertaining style.

Patrick J. Hayes, Computer Science Department, Stanford University

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- A. McPherson & J. G. Osborne. Control of behavior by an establishing stimulus.
- J. A. Dinsmoor, C. A. Bowe, L. Green, & J. Hanson. Information on response requirements compared with information on food density as a reinforcer of observing in pigeons.
- A. Ohta. Conditioned reinforcement by conditional discriminative stimuli.
- J. L. Arbuckle & K. A. Lattal. Changes in functional response units with briefly delayed

reinforcement.

- G. B. Biederman, K. G. McDonald, G. A. Heighington, & M. Vanayan. Color preference in pigeons: Stimulus-intensity and reinforcement-contingency effects in the avoidance of blue stimuli.
- D. B. Peele & S. P. Baron. Effects of scopolamine on repeated acquisition of radialarm maze performance by rats.
- J. Myerson & S. Hale. Choice in transition: A comparison of melioration and the kinetic model.
- J. E. R. Staddon. Quasi-dynamic choice models: Melioration and ratio invariance. ((Theoretical Article)
- J. Czubaroff. Criticism and response in the Skinner controversies. (Review Article)

#### **MAY 1988**

- A. Silberberg, F. R. Warren-Boulton, & T. Asano. Maximizing present value: A model to explain why moderate response rates obtain on variable-interval schedules.
- M. Davison. Concurrent schedules: Interaction of reinforcer frequency and reinforcer duration.
- B. Alsop & M. Davison. Concurrent-chain performance: Effects of absolute and relative terminal-link entry frequency.
- T. C. Jacob & E. Fantino. Effects of reinforcement context on choice.
- J. R. LeFrancois, P. N. Chase, & J. H. Joyce.

The effects of a variety of instructions on human fixed-interval performance.

- R. Lipkens, P. F. M. Kop, & W. Matthijs. A test of symmetry and transitivity in the conditional discrimination performances of pigeons.
- L. L. Howell, L. D. Byrd, & M. J. Marr. Differential effects of cocaine and pentobarbital on fixed-interval and randominterval performance.
- V. L. Lee. The language of action. (Review Article)

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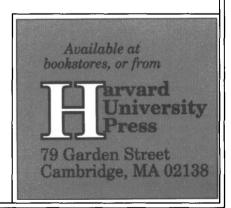
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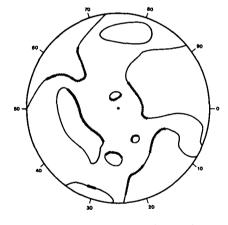
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# Psychobiolog

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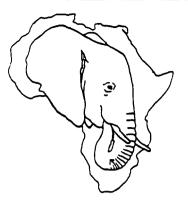
Book Review: "The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Hippocampus" by R. J. Sutherland

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Elephant populations are declining in virtually all of Africa: every year East Africa loses 8.1%, Central and West Africa lose 17.8% and parts of southern Africa are losing 8.2%; only in the southern African countries where poaching is under control, is there a slight increase of 0.7% per annum, (figures from data compiled by Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton for UNEP in Nairobi). Surveys show that elephant numbers are declining more slowly in protected areas - National Parks, Reserves, etc. - than elsewhere, but that protection MUST be improved if the downward trend is to be halted.

The major cause of the decline in elephant numbers is the illegal ivory trade. Poachers are often better equipped, better armed and better paid than the park guard and rangers who try to enforce the law. Anti-poacher work is frequently hampered by the lack of simple equipment - sometimes just a spare part for a vehicle, or boots and waterproof clothing for foot patrols. The African Ele-Fund is appealing for donations and bequests to help even up the odds in favor of the elephants. Every penny and every cent given will be spent in the field; the Ele-Fund is organized by volunteers and administered at no cost by the Wild in Britain and by the Eastern African Wildlife Society of Kenya. The Fauna and Flora Preservation Society (UK and USA) has also agreed to accept donations earmarked for the Ele-Fund, as has WWF-International in Switzerland.

#### **ELE-FUND RAISING**

Fund-raising is centered around a seriers of Park Profiles, drawn up by scientists and conservationists working in the field. Problem areas are thus pinpointed and lists of urgent needs prepared and costed for each park. Individuals, schools and societies will focus their fundraising on certain items of equipment or sums needed to cover vital work. For example, the Mount Elgon National Park in Kenya needs a minimum of £3,500 (US \$6,020) for vehicle repairs, and £15,000 (US \$25,800) per year to cover the costs of extra anti-poacher patrols. Without this help, the unique salt-mining elephants will be wiped out by the current spate of ivory poaching.

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Please make cheques, postal orders, or money orders payable to the African Ele-Fund.

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Ian Redmond, 60 Seymour Avenue, Bristol BS7 9HN, England; Telephone (0272) 46489

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Once the Commentary stage of the process has begun, the author can no longer alter the article, but can respond formally to all commentaries accepted for publication. The target article, commentaries and authors' response then co-appear in BBS. Continuing Commentary and replies can appear in later issues.

**Criteria for acceptance** To be eligible for publication, a paper should not only meet the standards of a journal such as *Psychological Review* or the *International Review of Neurobiology* in terms of conceptual rigor, empirical grounding, and clarity of style, but it should also offer a clear rationale for soliciting Commentary. That rationale should be provided in the author's covering letter, together with a list of suggested commentators. The original manuscript plus eight copies must be submitted.

A paper for BBS can be (i) the report and discussion of empirical research that the author judges to have broader scope and implications than might be more appropriately reported in a specialty journal; (ii) an unusually significant theoretical article that formally models or systematizes a body of research; or (iii) a novel interpretation, synthesis, or critique of existing experimental or theoretical work. Occasionally, articles dealing with social or philosophical aspects of the behavioral and brain sciences will be considered.

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Authors are requested to submit their double-spaced original manuscript with **eight copies** for refereeing, and commentators their original plus **two copies**, to: Steven Harnad, Editor, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 20 Nassau St., Suite 240, Princeton, NJ 08542. In case of doubt as to appropriateness for BBS commentary, authors should write to the editor before submitting eight copies.

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Authors of target articles receive 50 offprints of the entire treatment, and can purchase additional copies. Commentators will also be given an opportunity to purchase offprints of the entire treatment.

<sup>\*</sup>Individuals interested in serving as BBS Associates are asked to write to the editor.

### **Behavioral and Brain Sciences**

To appear in Volume 11, Number 2 (1988)

# Sex differences in mathematical reasoning ability in intellectually talented preadolescents: Their nature, effects, and possible causes.

#### C. P. Benbow, Iowa State University

Several hundred thousand intellectually talented 12- to 13-year-olds have been tested nationwide over 15 years with the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Although no differences in verbal ability have been found, sex differences in mathematical reasoning ability favoring males have persistently appeared. These differences are most pronounced at the highest levels of mathematical reasoning. They can predict subsequent sex differences in achievement in mathematics and science. To date a primarily environmental explanation for the difference in ability has not received support. In addition, several physiological correlates of extremely high mathematical reasoning ability have been identified. It is therefore proposed that the sex difference in SAT-M scores among intellectually talented students results from both environmental and biological factors.

With Commentary from R Bleier; L Bloom; L Braine; HJ Eysenck; P Goldman-Rakic & AS Clark; D Kimura; J Money; N Newcombe & M Baenninger; R Rosenthal; RJ Sternberg; L Tiger; SG Vandenberg; SF Witelson; and others.

#### **Précis of Sensory Analysis**

#### D. Laming, University of Cambridge

Sensory analysis is that initial, preconscious stage of perception at which primitive features (edges, temporal discontinuities, and periodicities) are picked out from the random fluctuations that characterize the physical stimulation of sensory receptors. Sensory analysis may be studied by means of signal detection, psychometric function, and threshold experiments, and Sensory Analysis presents a succinct, quasiquantitative account of the phenomena revealed thereby. This account covers all five sensory modalities, emphasising the similarities between them.

This precis is organized in three parts: Part I surveys Sensory Analysis as economically as may be, beginning from the simplest, most fundamental ideas and working towards phenomena of increasing complexity. A rather shorter Part II reviews the most important alternative models addressed to some part or other of the phenomena surveyed. Finally, a very short Part III contributes some metatheoretic remarks on the function of a theory of sensory discrimination.

With Commentary from CR Cavonius; LO Harvey, Jr.; M Jarvilehto; JJ Kulikowski; GR Lockhead; JC Malone, Jr.; JA Nevin; E Poppel & N Logothetis; DH Raab; KA Stevens; DL Tomko; M Wagner; P Wenderoth; WA Yost; and others.

#### **Tactical deception in primates**

#### A. Whiten & R. W Byrne, University of St. Andrews

Because of the nature of primate societies, tactical deception is likely to be subtle and relatively rare. This makes it an elusive topic for scientific analysis, despite its theoretical significance as a sensitive indicator of primate social cognition. Our strategy has been systematically to collate records contributed by a broad sample of research primatologists and to identify repeated patterns. The range and scope of tactical deception so revealed are analyzed within a classification system that makes distinctions among the functions the acts perform. Each category has different implications as to which aspects of the minds of others must be represented in the mind of an individual acting with deceptive intent.

**With Commentary from** SA Allmann; JD Baldwin; J Bennett; IS Bernstein; GM Burghardt; AC Danto; D Dennett; FBM de Waal; GG Gallup, Jr.; DR Griffin; N Humphrey; WC McGrew; V Reynolds; S Chevalier–Skolnikaff; and others.

#### Among the articles to appear in forthcoming issues of BBS:

- R Verleger, "Event related potentials and memory: A critique of the context updating hypothesis and an alternative interpretation of P3"
- E Donchin, "Is the P300 component a manifestation of context updating?"
- RA Gardner & BT Gardner, "Feedforward versus feedback: An ethological alternative to the law of effect"
- Multiple book review of DC Dennett, The Intentional Stance
- AW Logue, "Research on self-control: An integrating framework"
- TD Johnston, "Developmental explanation and the ontogeny of birdsong: Nature-nurture redux"
- H Davis & R Perusse, "Numerical competence in animals: Definitional issues, current evidence, and a new research
- D Lightfoot, "The child's trigger experience: Degree-0 learnability"

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