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REPRESENTING TIME IN LANGUAGE AND COGNITION

Every day we read about or watch events in the world and can easily understand or remember how long they last. What aspects of an event are retained in memory? And how do we extract temporal information from our memory representations? These issues are central to human cognition, as they underlie a fundamental aspect of our mental life, namely our representation of the passage of time. This talk will review language studies and report visual learning studies indicating that properties of the events encoded in memory, and in particular, the diversity of their associated representations, shape the representation of their duration, irrespective of whether we have learned about them through language or visual perception.