Overview

Today

Discussion of Sin of Persistence

The Seven Sins: Vices or Virtues

Reading

Read Schacter, Chapters 6 – 8

You should have a copy of


By Now
John Dean’s Memory

Reading assignment
Putting it all together
Ego centric biases
Event Schema (Scripts)
Reisodic memory,

'extracted the common themes that remained invariant across many conversations and many experiences, and then incorporated those themes in his testimony' (Neisser, 1981).
The Sin of Persistence

The Consequences of NOT Being Able to Forget

The Relationships Between Emotion and Memory

Events associated with strong emotions are remembered better

Memories of unpleasant events fade more rapidly

But what about the role of distinctiveness

Repeat similar experiences verses a novel experience

Interference

Role of

Counter factual thinking

Self-schema

Rumination

Overgeneralization
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Memory for violent events
Depression
Attempts to Actively Suppress Recall of the Event
Habituation as a Curative Process

Brain Mechanisms

- Hippocampus (Encoding of context)
- Amygdala (Fear)
- No Amygdala → NO Fear
- Fear conditioning in rats
- Neuroimaging studies (PET and fMRI)
The Seven Sins: Vices and Virtues

Psychology as Reverse Engineering

Discussion of Pinker in Lecture 1

Evolutionary Psychology

Mind is a Collection of Processes,
Designed by Natural Selection
to Solve Adaptive Problems
Faced by Our Hunter-Gatherer Ancestors

Vision

We Are Descendents of Arboreal,
Fruit Eating Apes

Color vision, depth perception, etc.

Memory

What did our hunter-gatherer ancestors
have to remember in order to survive

Adaptations that work well in the natural
environment that get us in trouble in
the modern world

Design trade offs
Trade Offs in the Design of Memory

What Is Memory For?

Concept of NEED
- Information needed to accomplish current goal
- Relevant parts of past experiences
- Successful problem solutions

What Would Happen If You Remembered Everything?
- Value of Recalling Needed Information
- Verses
- Cost of Recalling (and having to deal with)
- Useless Information

Want A Memory System That Enables You to Recall
Just USEFUL Information
Interactions With Other Cognitive Processes

Generalization
   Tradeoff
   Generalization
   Verses
   Requiring an Exact Match
Cost of Flexible Later Use
   Generalization Errors
   Effects of Context on Later Recall

Abstraction (Schematization)
   Forming abstract concepts
   Verses
   Lost of information about individual events