

„Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn“

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How we find and lose our way in the world: On the neurocognition of spatial memory

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Spatial memory is crucial for many daily life activities. Without it we would be frequently engaged in a laborious search for our keys or glasses, continuously struggling to find our way back home, and having hard times to remember where we parked our car. Given the clear ecological relevance of spatial memory, it has been argued that it would work to a large extent automatically, without conscious control and awareness. In this talk, examples will be given from recent studies on conscious and unconscious aspects of wayfinding and object location memory in humans. Moreover, the possible neurological correlates will be discussed as revealed by neuropsychological studies. Finally, a closer look is taken at spatial memory in real world settings.