

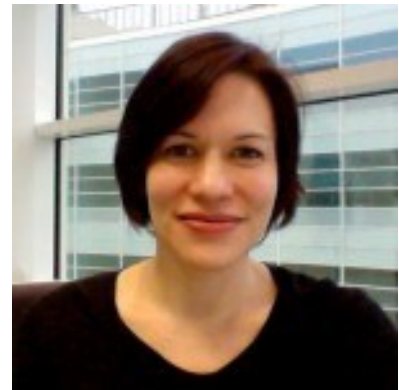
University of Maryland

Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Seminar

Fluid Semantics: Semantic knowledge is experience-based and dynamic

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University of Connecticut



Is our internal notion of, e.g., the object lemon, static? That is, do we have stable semantic representations that remain constant across time? Research in semantic memory has traditionally taken this “static” perspective. In this talk I will describe studies that challenge this perspective by showing that the cognitive and neural representations of object concepts are fluid, changing as a consequence of the context that each individual brings with them (e.g., via current goals, recent experience, long-term experience, or neural degeneration). I will argue that our findings support models of semantic memory in which rather than being static, conceptual representations are dynamic and shaped by experience, whether that experience extends over the lifetime, the task, or the moment.

Friday, April 20, 2018

10:15am, Room 1103 Bioscience Research Building

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