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Imagery and the Processing of Visuo-spatial Representations: A Symposium

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The common concern of the contributors to this symposium is the exploration and understanding of human cognitive capabilities involved in the processing of visuo-spatial representations, with a special emphasis on the role of visual imagery. The symposium focuses on the following main topics: the structural and processing characteristics of cognitive systems responsible for the temporary storage and manipulation of visual information; the effects of short-term memory processes on long-term storage of visual information and the incidence of individual differences in imagery on these processes; the similarity of mechanisms governing the processing of mental images for previously perceived visual patterns and images constructed from verbal descriptions; the incidence of experience-based skill differences in translating verbally presented information into visuospatial representations; the factors accounting for limitations in imagery abilities in subjects with visual deficits, such as the total congenital blind. These themes were selected for their relevance to the current theoretical approaches to human visual cognition.

The symposium was held during the Third Conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, hosted by the Fifth Annual Conference of the Cognitive Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society, Cambridge, England, 9–12 September 1988.

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