

Thursday, November 29th, 2pm ET

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The role of hippocampus in language use and processing

Melissa Duff, Ph.D.

Vanderbilt University

Language use requires the rapid and incremental processing of flexible and contextually defined linguistic forms that are formulated in rich, multi-modal environments. How this is accomplished in the brain, however, is an open question. While attempts to link aspects of memory to particular properties of language are longstanding, hippocampal-dependent declarative memory has not received serious consideration as a neural/cognitive system involved in language use and processing. This is in part due to the long-held assumption that the hippocampal-dependent memory contributes only to long-term memory representations and not those that are available quickly enough to guide on-line information processing. Combining discourse analysis, eye-tracking, and neuropsychological methods I will present evidence for the proposal that the hippocampus makes critical contributions to language use and processing. This proposal draws on the relational binding and representational flexibility that are hallmark characteristics of the hippocampus, along with findings stretching the scope of hippocampus-dependent processes to functions that operate in-the-moment. Linking disruptions in language use and processing to hippocampal-dependent declarative memory demonstrates how promiscuously the hallmark processing features of the hippocampus are called upon by a variety of cognitive domains, including language, and expands the network of neural and cognitive systems that support language use.

This lecture will be held at the University of South Carolina:
Room 140, Discovery I, 915 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208
Date: Thursday, November 29th, Time: **2pm – 3pm** Eastern Time

The lecture can also be followed online from your computer, tablet or smartphone, via the following GoToMeeting address (no password required):
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