

Rutvik Desai - Abstract

The Dynamic Nature of Conceptual Representations

I will discuss the idea that the conceptual system is built upon systems originally dedicated for sensory and motor functions. Existing sensory-motor systems are exploited to ground conceptual content. However, this grounding is not fixed or absolute. Using fMRI studies as well as studies of stroke patients, I will discuss evidence that shows how activation of conceptual content and the nature of its grounding changes in the face of immediate task demands and stimulus characteristics. These data underscore the flexible and interactive nature of memory systems and of brain organization in general.