The Control of Event-File Management

BERNHARD HOMMEL (iD)

ABSTRACT

According to the Theory of Event Coding, both perceived and self-produced events are coded by binding codes of the features of these events into event files. Here I argue that distinguishing between the actual binding process and the retrieval of event files is empirically difficult but theoretically important. As a first step towards disentangling these processes, I provide a brief overview of what the available evidence tells us with respect to the control of the binding process and the control of the retrieval process. I argue that there is not much evidence for selectivity of the binding process: Various kinds of stimuli and actions seem to be spontaneously integrated under various conditions, and there is increasing evidence that emotions, task instructions, and task context are coded into event files as well. On the other hand, there is increasing evidence for a high degree of selectivity of the retrieval process, suggesting that most if not all observations of effective impact on event files reflect an impact on retrieval, but not binding proper. I conclude by pointing out open questions and issues.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:
Bernhard Hommel

TU Dresden, Faculty of Psychology & University Neuropsychology Center, Faculty of Medicine, Cognitive Neurophysiology, Helmholtzstraße 10, DE

bh@bhommel.onmicrosoft. com