



Capturing time in space: Evidence for the spatial-temporal association of response codes

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It is recently shown that time information (e.g., “early” & “late”) has spatial characteristics, and that responses to such stimuli are biased by the mental representation of their magnitude (Ishihara, Keller, Rossetti, & Prinz, 2008). For example, left-side responses to early onset timing are faster than those to late onset timing, whereas right-side responses to late onsets are faster than those to early onsets when response keys were aligned horizontally [i.e., spatial-temporal association of response codes (STEARC) effect]. These findings support the existence of a spatial component in the cognitive representation of ‘time’ magnitude, which is consistent with Walsh’s (2003) hypothesis that any spatially and action-coded magnitude will yield a relationship between the magnitude and space. In my presentation, the existence of a ‘mental time line’ and further findings regarding the STEARC effect are discussed.

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