The Role of Context in Stimulus-Response Binding and Retrieval

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Forschungsfrage:

1. How is the contextual information integrated into a stimulus-response (S-R) episode?
2. Whether the context can function as a segmentation factor to demarcate the temporal integration window of S-R episodes?

Methodik:

In the current dissertation, the role of context in S-R binding and retrieval was investigated using the auditory negative priming paradigm (Mayr & Buchner, 2006), and the distractor-response binding paradigm (Frings et al., 2007). Results were analyzed using the multinomial processing tree (MPT) model and repeated-measures MANOVA.

Ergebnis:

Results show that the contextual stimulus, as an element, can be involved in a binary binding with the response or in a configural binding with the prime distractor stimulus and the response, which is determined by the saliency (Study One) and the inter-trial variability (Study Two) of the context. In Study Three, results indicate that the contextual stimulus can demarcate the temporal integration window of S-R episodes, suggesting a binding principle of sharing a common context. Taken together, the role of context as an element and as a segmentation factor was investigated in the current dissertation, current findings shed some light on the influence of contextual information on human behaviour.