

Public Abstract

First Name:Kyle

Middle Name:

Last Name:Hardman

Adviser's First Name:Nelson

Adviser's Last Name:Cowan

Co-Adviser's First Name:

Co-Adviser's Last Name:

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Title:Remembering Complex Objects in Visual Working Memory

Working memory is the term for the system that holds small amounts of information for short periods of time and allows us to use that information in daily life. One important aspect of working memory is how the parts of visual objects (such as their shape or color) are combined together into a complete object in memory. One past result indicated that people effortlessly combine all of the parts of objects into whole objects in memory. We compared how well people were able to notice a change in displays of several visual objects. In one condition, only one part of the objects was able to change (for example, only their color could change). In the other condition, any of the parts of the objects could change. We found that performance was worse when anything about the objects could change, not just one part. This indicates that it may take effort to combine the parts of visual objects into whole objects in mind.