



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA



Workshop – Synaesthesia and Creativity

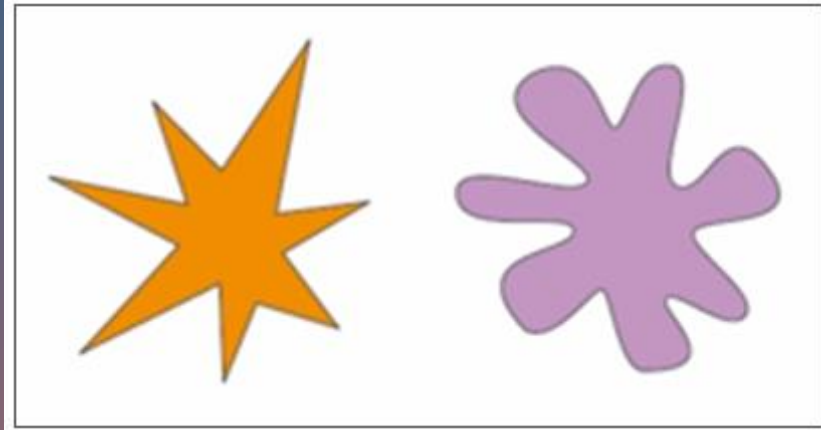
Christine Simmonds-Moore

Etzel Cardeña

14th Bial Symposium Behind and Beyond the Brain: Creativity
April, 2024

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhN7y75plwE>

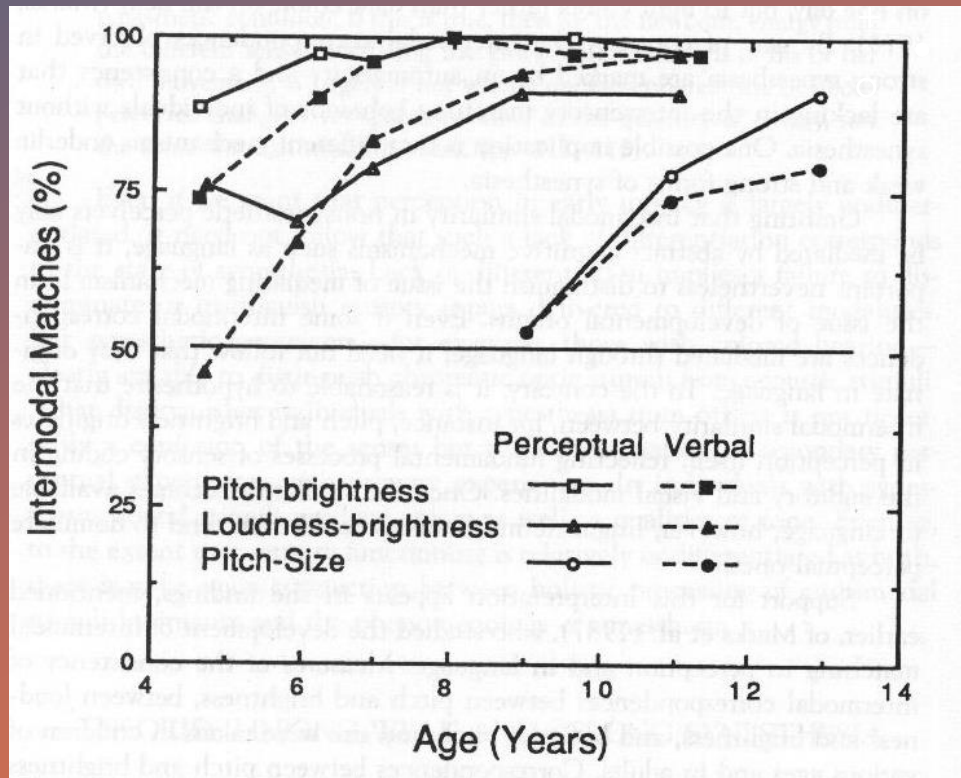
Cross Modal Imagery and Weak Synaesthesias



- Physiognomic perception, synaesthesias, and *cross modal mapping* and imagery
- Perceptual experiences are partly arbitrary (e.g., colors are representations of differences in electromagnetic frequencies; echolocation)
- Parallels between synesthetes and non synesthetes in pairings
- Synaesthesia suggests mind/brain is associative rather than binary, a “teeming multiplicity” (many types)

Cross-Modal Imagery and Age

(Marks, in Cardena et al., 2000)

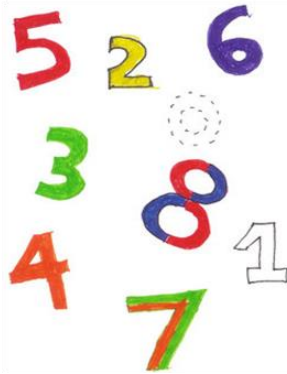


Synaesthesia

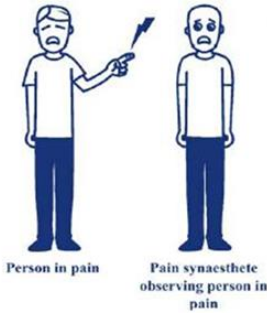
Synaesthesia occurs when an inducing stimulus (the inducer) results in the usual response *plus* an additional response (the concurrent)

Some common forms include:-

Grapheme-color

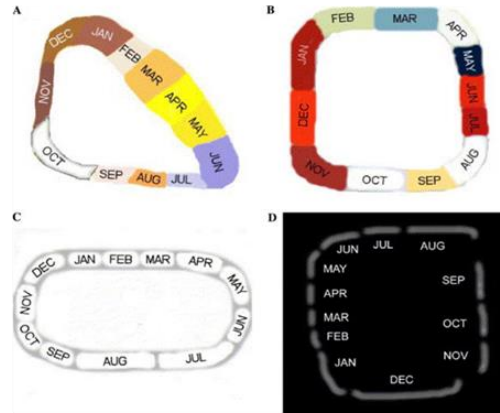


Mirror-touch



B.M. Fitzgibbon et al, 2010

Time-Space



7 clusters (Ward et al., 2022):-

1. Language-colour
2. Language-taste
3. Personification
4. Visualized sensations
5. Sequence-space
6. Language-touch
7. Smell-taste

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 F F M F M M F F M F M M M F M F F M M

Ordinal linguistic personification



+

•

○

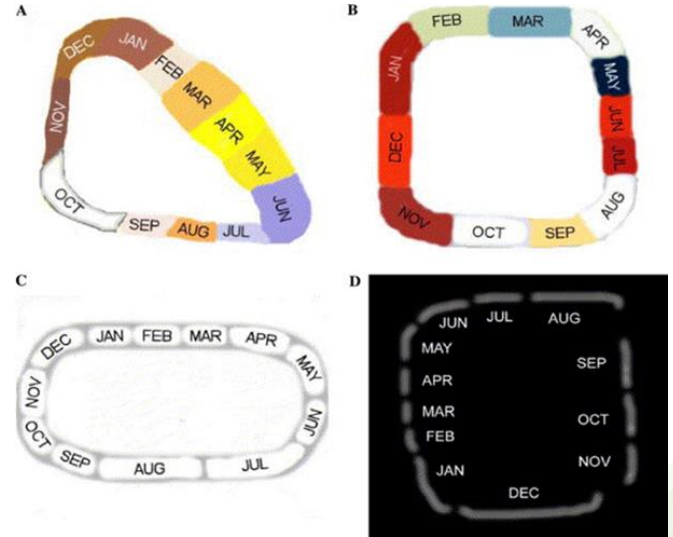
Synaesthesia

Luria (1968) “Presented with a tone at 2,000 cycles per second S. said: “ something like fireworks tinged with a pink-red hue. The strip of color feels rough and unpleasant, and it has an ugly taste... like that of a briny pickle”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkRbebvoYqI>

Time-Space Exercise

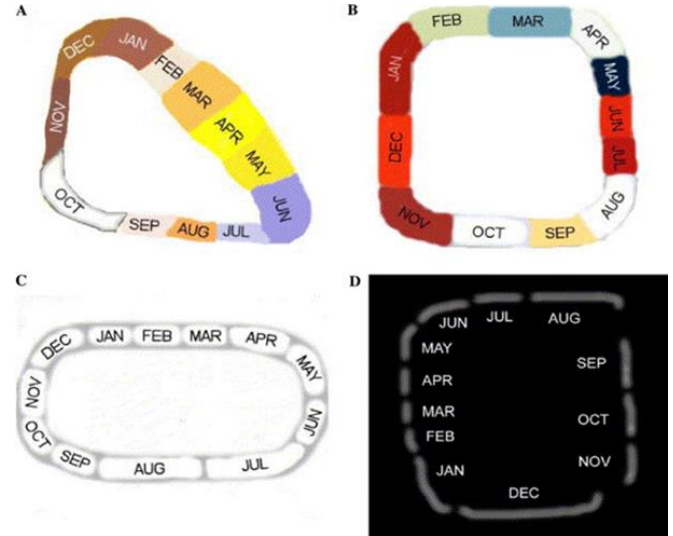
- Draw what a week, a month or a year looks like for you
- Use colour where you feel it is appropriate to illustrate the different days




Hypnosis suggestions

Time-Space Exercise 2

- For a second time, draw what a week, a month or a year looks like for you
- Use colour where you feel it is appropriate to illustrate the different days



Sound exercise

1. Sound 1 - 

Sound exercise

Sound 2 -



Sound 3

Sound 3 -



Sound exercise

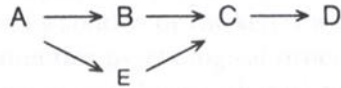
Sound 4



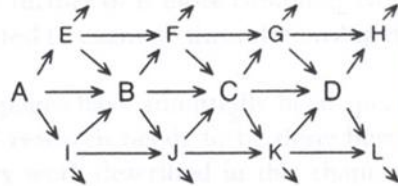
Acquiring Synaesthesia in Altered States

- Some synaesthesias occur in altered states of consciousness, induced by meditation, hypnagogia, hypnosis and psychedelics
- This might be particularly likely for people who are already “boundary thin” or score higher on measures of transliminality
 - Greater tendencies to move into altered states
 - Enhanced neuroplasticity, including tendencies toward syncretic cognitions (*physiognomic perception, eidetic imagery and synesthesia*)

THICK
BOUNDARIES:



THIN
BOUNDARIES:



4 Sample Items from Hartmann's Boundary Questionnaire

1. My feelings blend into one another 0 1 2 3 4
2. I am very close to my childhood feelings 0 1 2 3 4
3. I spend a lot of time daydreaming, fantasizing or in reverie. 0 1 2 3 4
4. I am unusually sensitive to loud noises and to bright lights. 0 1 2 3 4

NB. If you want to complete the longer version in your own time, you can find it here - https://ernesthartmann.com/files/The-Boundary-Questionnaire%20_2_.pdf

Scoring of the BQ items

Scoring consists of simply adding up the scores (0-4)

On our version, scores range from 0-16

Sum your scores





- What did you notice in terms of the colours and shapes you used for the different stimuli? How does this relate to your score on our mini boundary questionnaire?
- If you want to know if you qualify as a synesthete go to
- <https://synesthete.ircn.jp/home>