



Published in final edited form as:

*Hum Brain Mapp.* 2015 April ; 36(4): 1381–1392. doi:10.1002/hbm.22708.

## Imaging distributed and massed repetitions of natural scenes: Spontaneous retrieval and maintenance

Margaret M. Bradley<sup>1</sup>, Vincent D. Costa<sup>2</sup>, Vera Ferrari<sup>3</sup>, Maurizio Codispoti<sup>4</sup>, Jeffrey R. Fitzsimmons<sup>1</sup>, and Peter J. Lang<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Florida

<sup>2</sup> NIMH/NIH

<sup>3</sup> University of Parma

<sup>4</sup> University of Bologna

### Abstract

Repetitions that are distributed (spaced) across time prompt enhancement of a memory-related event-related potential, compared to when repetitions are massed (contiguous). Here, we employed fMRI to investigate neural enhancement and suppression effects during free viewing of natural scenes that were either novel or repeated four times with massed or distributed repetitions. Distributed repetition was uniquely associated with a repetition enhancement effect in a bilateral posterior parietal cluster that included the precuneus and posterior cingulate and which has previously been implicated in episodic memory retrieval. Unique to massed repetition, on the other hand, was enhancement in a right dorsolateral prefrontal cluster that has been implicated in short-term maintenance. Repetition suppression effects for both types of spacing were widespread in regions activated during novel picture processing. Taken together, the data are consistent with a hypothesis that distributed repetition prompts spontaneous retrieval of prior occurrences, whereas massed repetitions prompts short-term maintenance of the episodic representation, due to contiguous presentation. These processing differences may mediate the classic spacing effect in learning and memory.

---

Repetition can prompt either suppression or enhancement effects in neural measures of stimulus processing, including electrophysiological (Grill-Spector, Henson, & Martin, 2006), magnetoencephalographic (Huberle & Lutzenberger, 2013), and neuroimaging (Segaert, Weber, de Lange, Petersson, & Hagoort, 2013). Moreover, distributed repetitions, which are spaced across a learning episode, uniquely prompt an enhanced late centro-parietal positive potential at both encoding and retrieval (Ferrari, Bradley, Codispoti, Karlsson, & Lang, 2013; Ferrari, Bradley, Codispoti & Lang, 2014) that is similar in timing and topography to a classic old-new ERP difference found during a recognition test (Rugg & Curran, 2007), suggesting that distributed, but not massed (contiguous), repetitions may prompt spontaneous retrieval of prior occurrences. In the current study, we assessed this hypothesis using fMRI to identify distinct neural regions activated during encoding of massed or distributed repetitions.

---

A number of different mechanisms have been investigated that might mediate the classic finding that repetitions that are distributed in time facilitate both later learning and memory, compared to contiguous massed repetitions (i.e. “the spacing effect”; Godbole, Delaney, & Verhoeven, 2014; Cepeda, Pashler, Vul, Wixted, & Rohrer, 2006; Glenberg, 1979). Among these are a hypothesis that repetitions that are distributed across time uniquely prompt what was originally called “study-phase retrieval” (Green, 1989) or spontaneous retrieval, -- an involuntary “reminding” of prior occurrences which facilitates later performance (Hintzman, 2004, 2010). If distributed repetitions prompt spontaneous retrieval, we expected to find functional activity in one or more regions previously implicated in episodic memory uniquely for distributed repetitions.

Neuroimaging studies of episodic memory have reported an extensive network of regions involved in explicit recognition, including regions in frontal and prefrontal cortex, parietal and cingulate cortex, as well as in medial temporal lobe (MTL), including perirhinal and entorhinal cortex (for overview, see Rugg & Vilberg, 2013). Moreover, enhanced activity in a region of the posterior parietal cortex that includes the precuneus and posterior cingulate (e.g., BA 7/29) has been a reliable index of old-new differences beginning with early neuroimaging (PET and fMRI) reviews of functional activation during episodic recognition (e.g., Rugg & Henson, 2002), and more recent reviews report that enhanced functional activity in posterior parietal cortex, particularly a medial region involving the precuneus, is reliably obtained when recognizing repeated (“old”), compared to new, items during episodic recognition across a wide variety of stimulus materials, modalities, and tasks (see Wagner, Shannon, Kahn, & Buckner, 2005). To the extent that activation in these regions signal episodic memory processing, we expected that distributed, but not massed, repetition would elicit functional activation in one or more of these regions.

Whereas enhanced activation is reliably found for old, compared to new, items in a number of cortical regions (for an overview see Wagner, et al., 2005; Guerin & Miller, 2009; Rugg & Vilberg, 2013), in many neural regions the signature of prior experience is not an enhanced BOLD signal for repeated items, but rather suppression effects, in which neural activity is significantly attenuated for repeated, compared to new, items (Turk-Browne, Yi, & Chun, 2006; Kirchoff, Wagner, Maril, & Stern, 2000; Ward, Chun, & Kuhl, 2013). Repetition suppression (see Grill-Spector et al., 2006), is, in fact, a ubiquitous finding in studies of repetition with or without subsequent tests of memory and has been variously interpreted as reflecting perceptual sharpening, neural fatigue, information accumulation, or predictive coding (see Grill-Spector et al., 2006; Segaert et al., 2013). In a study that investigated neural suppression during encoding of massed, compared to distributed, presentations of faces, Xue et al. (2011) report more suppression in bilateral fusiform cortex for massed repetitions, prompting their interpretation that encoding may be deficient during massed repetition.

In the current study, we assessed repetition suppression and enhancement effects using fMRI in a free viewing context in which natural scenes were presented that were novel, or repeated using massed (3x) or distributed (3x) repetitions. The analytic strategy was as follows: 1) In order to assess whether repetition prompts BOLD activity in regions that are not found when encoding novel pictures, we first determined the set of regions that show a

reliable increase in BOLD activity when viewing novel pictures, 2) We next assessed effects of repetition in these “novel picture processing regions”, with the goal of determining whether and how BOLD changes vary depending upon whether repetitions were massed or distributed, and 3) most importantly, we next assessed effects of repetition in regions that were not implicated in novel picture processing, with the specific question of whether distributed repetition uniquely prompts activity in one or more regions previously identified as important in episodic memory processing.

Mixed evidence exists regarding whether the amount of repetition suppression may also vary with the emotional salience of events. In at least one instance, repetition suppression was larger when viewing fearful compared to neutral faces (Ishai, Pessoa, Bickle, & Ungerleider, 2004) whereas other studies of face perception (e.g. Rotshein, Malach, Hadar, Graif, & Hendler, 2001) have not found differential suppression as a function of emotion. Because pictures of facial expressions are generally less psychophysiological evocative than emotional scenes (Wangelin, Bradley, Kastner, & Lang, 2012), and engage different neural circuits (Sabatinelli et al., 2011), effects of emotion on repetition effects might be better elucidated using more evocative scenes. To re-assess the relationship between repetition and emotion, we presented pictures of both emotionally arousing (erotica, violence) and neutral scenes, and assessed whether the functional activation patterns found for massed and distributed repetition vary with emotionality.

## Method

### Participants

Twenty-four students enrolled in general psychology courses at the University of Florida participated for course credit or \$20. All participants had normal visual acuity and reported no previous experience of claustrophobia during a phone interview. The study was approved by the local institutional review board and informed consent was obtained prior to the experiment.

### Materials and Design

The stimuli consisted of 24 pictures selected from the International Affective Picture System (IAPS; Lang, Bradley, & Cuthbert, 2008), consisting of 12 emotionally evocative pictures (6 erotica; 6 violent), and 12 neutral pictures. Of the 24 pictures, 12 (half emotional) were presented four times using massed repetitions and 12 (half neutral) were presented four times using distributed repetitions; the first presentation of each of the 24 pictures served as the 24 novel trials. Thus, for massed repetitions, each of the 12 pictures was repeated three times in a row following the initial novel presentation (i.e., 12 pictures x 3 massed repetitions=36 trials, half (18) emotional); for distributed repetition, each of the three repetitions were intermixed with other pictures (lag 24-30 trials between repetitions; 12 pictures x 3 repetitions=36 trials overall; half (18) emotional).

An additional 12 pictures were presented that followed the last massed presentation of each picture, based on a previous study in which we found that these pictures elicit enhanced attention (Ferrari, Bradley, Codispoti, Karlsson, & Lang, 2013). These 12 trials were not

included here. Overall, the entire design involved the 196 critical trials (24 pictures x 4 presentations) and 12 filler trials for a total of 208 trials.

Each picture was presented for 3 s followed by a 12 s inter-trial interval consisting of a black screen with a white fixation-cross in the center of the screen. All stimuli were backward projected onto a LCD monitor (640 × 480 pixel resolution) situated behind the participant's head, and viewed using a head-coil mounted mirror (IFIS-SA, Invivo, Orlando, FL). Stimulus presentation was controlled using a PC-compatible computer running E-Prime (Psychology Software Tools, Inc., Sharpsburg, PA). Two orders were constructed such that if a picture was presented with massed repetition in one order, it was presented with distributed repetition in the other. In addition, picture presentation order was counterbalanced so that pictures presented in the first half of the experiment in one order were presented in the second half of the experiment in the second order (and vice versa).

## Procedure

After entering the scanner, participants were instructed to view each picture while it was on the screen and to maintain their gaze on a centrally presented fixation cross.

## Data Acquisition & Reduction

A T1-weighted anatomical volume was first acquired using a Phillips 3T MR scanner. Functional volumes were 50 coronal slices (2.5 mm thick, .5 mm gap) acquired using a T2\* weighted echo planar imaging sequence with a 3 s TR, 35 ms TE, 64 × 64 acquisition matrix, and 160 mv FOV (2.5 × 2.5 inplane voxel resolution) resulting in a total of 565 functional volumes. Data were processed offline using the Analysis of Functional Neuroimages software (AFNI; Cox, 1996) in which structural images were aligned to functional images, and the functional data were then slice-time adjusted, motion corrected, spatially smoothed (5 mm FWHM Gaussian kernel), and expressed as percent blood oxygen level-dependent (BOLD) signal relative to the mean BOLD activity across the entire timeseries for each voxel. These data were deconvolved using a general linear regression model that estimated the amplitude of the hemodynamic response to each stimulus category using a top hat function convolved with a standard gamma variate response as a basis function. The model included each of the 6 conditions (novel, massed, distributed x emotional, neutral) and regressors of non-interest that modeled motion residuals and baseline drift. The resulting beta values for each of the 6 conditions for each participant were spatially normalized and resampled to a 2.5 mm isotropic voxel size.

## Data Analysis

The analytic strategy involved first identifying regions that were active during picture processing regardless of hedonic content. To do so, functional data during novel picture viewing was assessed in an ANOVA which provided separate *t*-test statistics testing whether the mean beta value across participants was significantly greater than 0 when viewing emotional and neutral pictures. Each of these two statistical volumes was thresholded at  $t(23) = 3.8$  (uncorrected  $p < .001$ ) and corrected for multiple comparisons with a cluster size criterion of 86 voxels (FWE  $p < .05$ ). The critical cluster size was determined through Monte Carlo stimulations of a random field of noise using the AFNI program AlphaSim. The

spatial correlation across voxels of the noise field was specified to match the spatial correlation across voxels of the residuals of the estimated ANOVA model. A subsequent conjunction analysis retained only voxels that were significant both when viewing novel emotional pictures and when viewing novel neutral pictures. These voxels were neuroanatomically labeled using macrolabels derived from the MNI template (Eickhoff et al., 2005) that had been transformed into Talairach space (Brett, Christoff, Cusack, & Lancaster, 2001). The extent of activation in each identified region was expressed as the proportion of voxels retained in the conjunction analysis relative to the total number of voxels comprising each region. To provide a reference for the selected threshold, the extent of activation in Figure 1 also includes the proportion of voxels activated using a more lenient statistical threshold,  $t(23) = 2.84$  (uncorrected  $p < .01$ ), but corrected for multiple comparisons with a similar strict cluster size criterion of 86 voxels (FWE  $p < .05$ ). To assess effects of repetition and emotion in the novel picture processing regions, the mean beta value was averaged over significant voxels in each region for each participant and condition, and submitted to an ANOVA that included repeated measures variables of repetition (novel, massed, distributed) and emotion (emotional, neutral).

Repetition effects in regions other than those involved in picture processing were determined by first masking out the anatomical regions involved in novel picture processing. The main effect of repetition in the voxels remaining in the volume was then assessed using a repeated measure ANOVA that tested the mean beta change when viewing novel, massed, or distributed presentations. A cluster size to correct for multiple comparisons ( $n = 56$  voxels;  $p < .05$  FWE) was recomputed for this masked statistical volume using a threshold of  $F(1,23) = 4.56$  (uncorrected  $p < .01$ ). The critical cluster size was similarly determined by simulations of the random noise field with spatial correlations specified to match the residuals of the ANOVA model over the massed volume. For functional clusters in which the main effect of repetition was significant, the mean beta value was averaged over significant voxels for each participant as a function of repetition and emotion and submitted to a 2-way ANOVA.

Descriptive statistics used to illustrate the BOLD waveforms during picture viewing as a function of repetition and emotion were computed by deviating the percent BOLD change on each TR (following preprocessing) from the value in a baseline volume that immediately preceded picture onset; these change scores were then averaged over participant, trial, and condition to illustrate mean BOLD activity in specific functional clusters.

## Results

### Novel picture processing regions

Figure 1 illustrates regions involved in novel picture processing, based on a conjunction analysis in which voxels were retained that showed a significant increase in BOLD activity when viewing emotional picture as well as when viewing neutral pictures. The coordinates for the center of activity in each region, the extent of activation, and the mean BOLD change (beta) in each region when viewing novel pictures are also included.

Not surprisingly, novel picture processing was associated with significant BOLD activity in multiple regions in bilateral occipital, temporal, parietal, and frontal cortex, as well as in thalamic and subcortical regions<sup>1</sup>. As expected, activity in regions of the posterior cortex, including those implicated in the ventral visual processing stream was predominant, including bilateral occipital (inferior, middle), temporal (inferior, middle) gyrus and fusiform cortex, as well as calcarine and lingual gyri. Regions implicated in the dorsal visual processing stream were also activated, including bilateral activity in superior occipital cortex and superior parietal cortex, which extended slightly into inferior parietal cortex. As Figure 1 indicates, the center and amplitude of activity in each region in posterior cortex was strikingly similar in the left and right hemispheres.

Beyond the visual cortex, significant activity was found during novel picture processing in the thalamus as well as in subcortical regions that included the bilateral parahippocampus, hippocampus, and amygdala. Of note is that these regions, in surviving the conjunction analysis, show a significant increase in BOLD activity even when processing novel pictures that are not highly emotional, consistent with studies demonstrating both hippocampal (Menon, White, Eliez, Glover, & Reiss, 2000) and amygdala sensitivity to novelty (e.g., Balderston, Schultz, & Helmstetter, 2011). The most anterior regions of the cortex consistently activated during novel picture processing included bilateral activity beginning around the precentral gyrus and extending into the inferior frontal gyrus (orbicularis, triangularis) and a small, but reliable, cluster in supplementary motor area (SMA) in the region of the supplementary eye fields.

**Novel picture processing regions : Repetition effects**—Table 1 lists the effects of repetition in regions activated during novel picture processing, and, in every instance, repetition prompted significant suppression in which repeated pictures, whether massed or distributed, showed smaller positive BOLD changes than were found during novel picture processing. Suppression effects were found throughout the occipito-temporal cortex, as well as in the amygdala, hippocampal/parahippocampal regions, thalamus and all anterior regions. In some of these regions, repetition suppression did not differ for massed and distributed repetition, including the amygdala (see Figure 2, top right), thalamus, and all anterior regions, whereas repetition suppression was significantly larger for massed, compared to distributed, repetition in fusiform gyrus (see Figure 2, bottom right), calcarine, inferior and middle occipital gyrus, and inferior temporal gyrus, as well as in the hippocampus, and parahippocampus (see Figure 2, left). Only two regions implicated in novel picture processing did not show significant repetition effects, and these included SMA and superior parietal cortex.

**Repetition effects: Outside novel picture processing regions**—Figure 3 illustrates the only functional cluster that was not significantly activated during novel picture processing, but showed a positive increase in BOLD activity specifically for distributed

---

<sup>1</sup>Significant BOLD activity was found bilaterally in the cerebellum (mean beta .18, left; .22, right) and cerebellar vermis (mean beta .22) during novel picture processing, with only a small proportion (<5%) showing significant repetition suppression which all bordered regions showing significant suppression effects near the inferior temporal and fusiform cortex. There were no repetition enhancement effects in these regions.

repetitions, which was a bilateral medial cluster in posterior parietal cortex, located along the occipitoparietal junction that included regions of the posterior precuneus (BA 7) and the anterior cuneus (BA 31)<sup>2</sup>, extending inferiorly to the posterior cingulate (BA 29). BOLD changes in this cluster were significantly enhanced when viewing pictures presented with distributed repetition, compared to either massed repetition,  $F(1,23)=10.8$ ,  $p=.003$ , or to novel picture processing  $F(1,23)=16.4$ ,  $p=.0005$ . As illustrated in Figure 3, enhanced activity in this functional cluster was similar at each of the three distributed repetitions of each picture.

For massed repetition, on the other hand, repetition enhancement was found uniquely in a cluster situated on the lateral aspect of the right superior and middle frontal gyrus (e.g. dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; BA 9/10; see Figure 4, top panel) which showed significant enhancement during massed repetitions, compared to when viewing novel pictures,  $F(1,23)=28$ ,  $p<.0001$ , or pictures presented with distributed repetition,  $F(1,23)=19.3$ ,  $p=.0002$ .

Two other repetition effects outside the picture processing regions involved decreases in BOLD activity. A cluster located in right inferior parietal cortex (beginning in the angular gyrus and extending to supramarginal gyrus; BA 40/39; see Figure 4, middle) resulted in a significant *decrease* in BOLD activity when viewing novel, compared to repeated, pictures (distributed:  $F(1,23)=12.6$ ,  $p=.002$ ; massed:  $F(1,23)=20.9$ ,  $p=.0001$ ). And, in ventromedial prefrontal gyrus (BA 10), a significant decrease in BOLD activity was found during massed repetition compared to either novel picture viewing  $F(1,23) = 30.3$ ,  $p<.0001$ , or to distributed repetition,  $F(1,23)=15.9$ ,  $p=.0006$  (see Figure 4, bottom).

**Effects of emotion**—Differences in functional activity when viewing novel emotional, compared to neutral, scenes replicated previous studies, with enhanced BOLD activity found in the amygdala, as well as throughout lateral occipital cortex (inferior, middle, superior), fusiform gyrus, and inferior frontal regions (see Table 2). Emotional pictures were also associated with enhanced BOLD activity in the hippocampus, precentral gyrus, and middle temporal gyrus. Repetition suppression effects in the novel picture processing regions were generally quite similar in magnitude for emotional and neutral scenes (see Table 3) except that suppression in the superior parietal lobe, which was not found in the overall analysis, was significant for neutral, but not emotional, pictures, during both massed and distributed repetition.

Outside the novel picture processing regions, enhanced activity in the posterior precuneus/cuneus that occurred uniquely for distributed repetitions was found for both emotional and neutral pictures (see timecourse data in Figure 3). In addition, the significant enhancement found for massed repetitions in right lateral prefrontal cortex was found for both emotional and neutral pictures (see Figure 4, top), and the decrease in BOLD activity for massed repetitions in ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC; see Figure 4, bottom) was also found for both emotional and neutral pictures. The decrease in BOLD activity in the (right) angular

---

<sup>2</sup>The functional activity found in the posterior cuneus during novel picture processing did not spatially overlap with the anterior cluster that showed enhanced activation with distributed repetition.

gyrus when viewing novel pictures was significantly larger for emotional, compared to neutral, pictures,  $F(1,23)=10.5$ ,  $p=.004$  (Figure 4, middle).

## Discussion

Distributed repetition of natural scenes was uniquely associated with increased BOLD activity in a bilateral medial cluster in posterior parietal cortex that included regions of the posterior precuneus and anterior cuneus that extended inferiorly to the posterior cingulate (BA 7/31/29). Enhanced BOLD activity in this medial posterior parietal cluster was not found during massed repetition, or when encoding novel pictures, and functional brain activity in these medial regions of the posterior parietal cortex have been previously implicated in memory-related processes such as episodic retrieval in a number of studies of episodic memory (Donaldson, Petersen, & Buckner, 2001; Guerin & Miller, 2009; Yassa & Stark, 2008; Kompus, Eichele, Hugdahl, & Nyberg, 2010; Wagner et al., 2005). For massed repetition, on the other hand, repetition enhancement was found uniquely in a cluster in right dlPFC, spanning superior and medial frontal gyrus (BA 9/10) that is often found in studies of working memory (e.g., Cohen et al., 1997), suggesting that massed repetition prompts continued maintenance in short-term memory based solely on contiguous presentation.

Processing novel pictures, whether emotional or neutral, involved widespread activation in occipital, temporal, and parietal cortex. Activity in the ventral visual stream was relatively spatially contiguous from anterior fusiform cortex to parahippocampal/hippocampal regions to the amygdala, as illustrated in Figure 2, regardless of picture content, consistent with previous data indicating a general sensitivity to novelty in both the hippocampus and the amygdala. Replicating previous data, emotional pictures were associated with enhanced BOLD activity in many regions involved in novel picture processing, including lateral occipital cortex (inferior, middle), fusiform cortex, inferior frontal gyrus, the hippocampus, and the amygdala (e.g. Lang et al., 1998; Bradley et al., 2003; Sabatinelli et al., 2011; Phan, Wager, Taylor, & Liberzon, 2004). We have interpreted enhanced functional activity for emotionally evocative cues as reflecting “natural selective attention” that is engaged by cues that activate fundamental motivational systems of appetite and defense (Lang, Bradley & Cuthbert, 1997; Bradley, 2009). Nonetheless, repetition suppression and enhancement effects were generally similar for emotional and neutral scenes, and most importantly, enhanced posterior parietal activity prompted by distributed repetitions, as well as activation of the dlPFC by massed repetitions, were found regardless of hedonic content, suggesting these effects reflect the operation of a general cognitive mechanism.

### Repetition enhancement

Segaert et al. (2013) review instances in which repetition prompts enhancement, rather than suppression, of BOLD activity, which is sometimes interpreted as reflecting the operation of an additional cognitive process (e.g., Henson, Shallice, & Dolan, 2000), consistent with our interpretation that enhanced posterior parietal activity for distributed repetition signals the engagement of an additional episodic retrieval process. Enhanced activity in posterior parietal cortex, including the precuneus and posterior cingulate (e.g., BA 7/29) has been noted many times before during explicit recognition (e.g., Rugg & Henson, 2002; Wagner et



al., 2005), and in other memory-related contexts. For instance, when functional activity was directly compared during explicit and implicit memory tasks, bilateral activation of the precuneus was among the most prominent regions reliably engaged in both tasks (Donaldson et al., 2001). Moreover, Nelson, Arnold, Gilmore and McDermott (2013) found that enhanced posterior parietal activity was associated with “test-potentiated learning”, in which items tested (retrieved) during study show better learning than those not tested. Reviewing the many functions of the precuneus, Cavanna & Trimble (2006) conclude that enhanced activity in the posterior precuneus, in particular, is reliably related to episodic memory processes in both explicit and implicit contexts.

Our finding of enhanced posterior parietal activity uniquely for distributed repetitions during free viewing further supports a hypothesis that episodic retrieval in this context is *spontaneous* or involuntary. This involuntary “reminding” (e.g., Tullis, Benjamin, & Ross, 2014) is sometimes considered the most natural mode of memory retrieval in daily life: cues automatically retrieve related events, enabling judgments of frequency, recency, order, and spacing (Hintzman, 2004, 2010) as well as mediating prospective memory and future actions (Einstein et al., 2005). Additional support for this interpretation is garnered from Lee, Leung, Lee, Raine & Chan (2013) who found that the posterior precuneus was the only region that reliably differentiated between repeated and novel faces in a lie detection task regardless of whether participants were instructed to respond truthfully or to lie about prior occurrence.

To the extent that medial parietal cortex activity indexes spontaneous reminding, a possible link can be made between the current data and the reliable inclusion of the precuneus as a component of the default mode network (Andrews-Hanna, Reidler, Sepulcre, Poulin, & Buckner, 2010). Current conceptualizations of default mode processing hypothesize that it reflects internal-oriented processing that includes spontaneous episodic retrieval, mental imagery, and future planning, which fits well with the hypothesized role of reminding in relating the present to both the past and the future (e.g., Spreng & Grady, 2010; Schacter, et al., 2012; Andrews-Hanna, et al., 2010; Buckner, 2012). Spontaneous retrieval could facilitate later memory performance in a number of ways, not least of which is that the act of retrieval itself facilitates learning and memory (e.g., Carrier & Pashler, 1992; Karpicke & Roediger, 2008, Karpicke & Blunt, 2011; Nelson et al., 2013).

### Working memory

Massed repetition was uniquely associated with enhanced activity in right superior/medial frontal gyrus (dlPFC; BA 9/46), a region long implicated in maintenance of information in working memory (Cohen et al., 1997; Pessoa, Gutierrez, Bandettini, & Ungerleider, 2002). An early hypothesis that verbal and non-verbal material may differentially engage left and right prefrontal regions, respectively, was not always supported, as bilateral dlPFC activation was found in a number of studies during active maintenance, regardless of the nature of the materials (Nystrom et al., 2000; Postle, Stern, Rosen & Corkin, 2000). One possibility is that the effortful maintenance induced in prototypical working memory tasks, such as the N-back, recruits both hemispheres because participants attempt to use idiosyncractic verbal codes to assist in task performance, even when targets are nominally

non-verbal. In the current study, on the other hand, maintenance in working memory is achieved simply by contiguous repetition of the same stimulus.

### Repetition suppression

The repetition suppression effects found in almost all of the novel picture processing regions when viewing natural scenes are consistent with Kirchoff et al. (2000) who reported repetition suppression effects in inferior prefrontal, fusiform, and medial temporal lobe, as well as Menon et al. (2000) who found “novelty” effects in lingual gyrus, parahippocampus, hippocampus and inferior frontal gyrus (in analyses restricted to these regions) for natural scenes (see also Stern et al., 1996; Tulving, Markowitsch, Kapur, Habib, & Houle, 1994; Buckner, Kelley, & Petersen, 1999; Wagner et al., 1998). The ubiquity of repetition suppression in regions implicated in novel picture processing suggests that functional activity in these regions index processes involved in initial resolution of picture content that may reflect perceptual priming (Wiggs & Martin, 1998).

Repetition suppression effects were slightly larger for massed, compared to distributed, repetition in some regions (e.g., hippocampal, parahippocampal, fusiform, etc.), raising the question of whether enhanced suppression contributes to the poorer memory for massed repetitions. Ward et al. (2013) found no evidence that amount of suppression was related to subsequent memory, however, and Summerfield, Trittschuh, Monti, Mesulam, & Eger (2008) reflecting ease of prediction. Larsson & Smith (2012) explicitly tested between stimulus expectation and neuronal fatigue accounts of repetition suppression by presenting frequent or infrequent repetitions of faces alone, or in a dual-task context. When faces were presented alone, repetition suppression was greater for frequent, compared to infrequent, repetitions. When attention was diverted, however, repetition suppression was equivalent for both frequent and infrequent repetitions, presumably because the difficult distracting task eliminated the contribution of active expectation. In the current study, stimulus expectation could play a similar role in enhancing suppression for massed, compared to distributed, repetitions, but may not be strongly implicated in mediating later memory performance.

### Reduced BOLD activity

A significant repetition effect found in right lateral inferior parietal cortex (including angular gyrus; BA 40/39) was primarily due to a decrease in BOLD activity when viewing novel, compared to repeated, scenes and, in general, effects linked with decreased BOLD activity are typically more difficult to interpret (but see Bressler, Spotswood, & Whitney, 2007). Of note is that a similar region in the left lateral parietal cortex, in the region of the angular and supramarginal gyrus, is commonly reported in studies of episodic memory and, in at least some cases, the statistical old-new difference is due to a decrease in BOLD activity for novel stimuli, rather than enhancement for old items (e.g., McDermott, Jones, Petersen, Lageman & Roediger, 2000; Wheeler & Buckner, 2004). Because the direction of old-new differences can not usually be ascertained from statistical maps, it is important to determine whether these effects are indeed due to enhanced BOLD activity for “old” items.

## Summary

In a free-viewing context, distributed repetition of natural scenes uniquely prompts enhanced functional activity in a region in the posterior parietal lobe that includes the posterior precuneus, anterior cuneus, and posterior cingulate cortex, regions previously implicated in episodic memory retrieval. Massed repetition, on the other hand, was associated with unique enhancement in right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex that includes superior and medial frontal gyrus, regions previously implicated in working memory. These data are consistent with an interpretation that distributed repetition may prompt episodic memory-related processes such as stimulus-based spontaneous retrieval of the prior occurrence, which could mediate later facilitated learning and memory. Retrieval-related processes are not engaged during massed repetition because the episodic representations are continuously maintained in short-term memory, simply by virtue of contiguous presentation. Taken together, fMRI has helped to elucidate the cognitive processing that occurs when simply encountering a repeated item in a free viewing (i.e., non-memory) context, and suggests that differences in spontaneous retrieval may mediate the spacing effect, in which distributed, compared to massed, repetitions benefit both learning and memory.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported in part by NIMH grants MH098078 and MH094386. Correspondence concerning this article can be addressed to Margaret Bradley, Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention, University of Florida, PO Box 112766, Gainesville, FL 32611.

## References

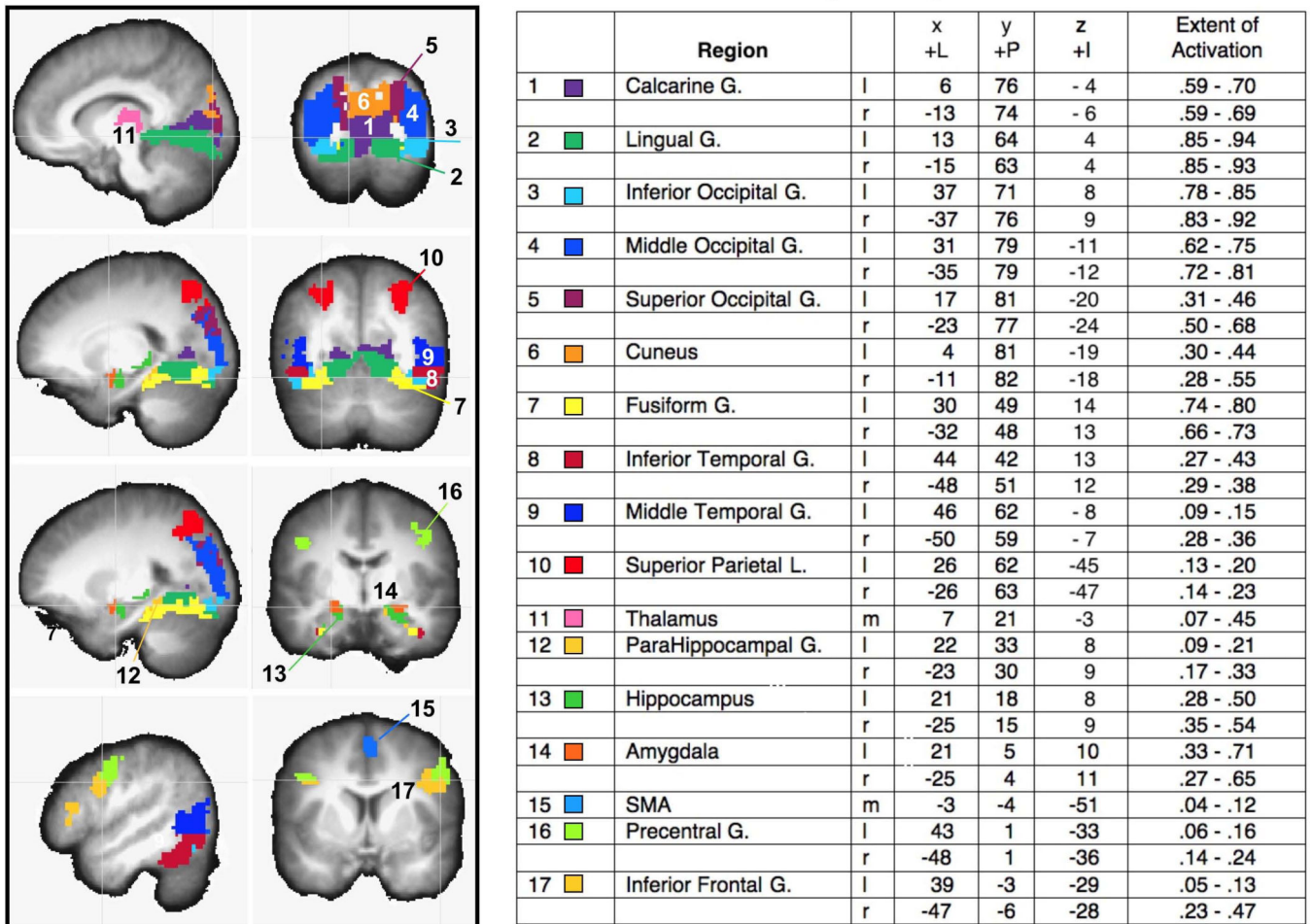
- Andrews-Hanna JR, Reidler JS, Sepulcre J, Poulin R, Buckner RL. Functional-anatomic fractionation of the brain's default network. *Neuron*. 2010; 65:550–562. [PubMed: 20188659]
- Balderston NL, Schultz DH, Helmstetter FJ. The human amygdala plays a stimulus specific role in the detection of novelty. *NeuroImage*. 2011; 55(4):1889–1898. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroimage.2011.01.034. [PubMed: 21256226]
- Bradley MM. Natural selective attention: Orienting and emotion. *Psychophysiology*. 2009; 46:1–11. [PubMed: 18778317]
- Bradley MM, Sabatinelli D, Lang PJ, Fitzsimmons JR, King WM, Desai P. Activation of the visual cortex in motivated attention. *Behavioral Neuroscience*. 2003; 117:369–380. [PubMed: 12708533]
- Bressler D, Spotswood N, Whitney D. Negative BOLD fMRI response in the visual cortex carries precise stimulus-specific information. *PLoS ONE*. 2007; 2(5):e410. [PubMed: 17476332]
- Brett M, Christoff K, Cusack R, Lancaster J. Using the talairach atlas with the MNI template. *NeuroImage*. 2001; 13(6):S85. doi: 10.1016/S1053-8119(01)91428-4.
- Buckner RL. The serendipitous discovery of the brain's default network. *NeuroImage*. 2012; 62(2): 1137–1145. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroimage.2011.10.035. [PubMed: 22037421]
- Buckner RL, Kelley WM, Petersen SE. Frontal cortex contributes to human memory formation. *Nature Neuroscience*. 1999; 2:311–314.
- Carrier M, Pashler H. The influence of retrieval on retention. *Memory & Cognition*. 1992; 20:633–642. [PubMed: 1435266]
- Cavanna AE, Trimble MR. The precuneus: A review of its functional anatomy and behavioural correlates. *Brain*. 2006; 129:564–583. doi: 10.1093/brain/aw1004. [PubMed: 16399806]
- Cepeda NJ, Pashler H, Vul E, Wixted JT, Rohrer D. Distributed practice in verbal recall tasks: A review and quantitative synthesis. *Psychological Bulletin*. 2006; 132(3):354–380. doi: 10.1037/0033-2909.132.3.354. [PubMed: 16719566]

- Cohen JD, Perlstein WM, Braver TS, Nystrom LE, Noll DC, Jonides J, Smith EE. Temporal dynamics of brain activation during a working memory task. *Nature*. 1997; 386:604–608. [PubMed: 9121583]
- Cox RW. AFNI: Software for analysis and visualization of functional magnetic resonance neuroimages. *Computers and Biomedical Research*. 1996; 29:162–173. [PubMed: 8812068]
- Donaldson DI, Petersen SE, Buckner RL. Dissociating memory retrieval processes using fMRI: Evidence that priming does not support recognition memory. *Neuron*. 2001; 31:1047–1059. [PubMed: 11580903]
- Eickhoff SB, Stephan KE, Mohlberg H, Grefkes C, Fink GR, Amunts K, Zilles K. A new SPM toolbox for combining probabilistic cytoarchitectonic maps and functional imaging data. *NeuroImage*. 2005; 25(4):1325–1335. [PubMed: 15850749]
- Einstein GO, McDaniel MA, Thomas R, Mayfield S, Shank H, Morrisette N, Breneiser J. Multiple processes in prospective memory retrieval: Factors determining monitoring versus spontaneous retrieval. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. 2005; 134(3):327–342. doi: 10.1037/00963445.134.3.327. [PubMed: 16131267]
- Ferrari V, Bradley MM, Codispoti M, Lang PJ. Detecting novelty and significance. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*. 2010; 22(2):404–411. doi: 10.1162/jocn.2009.21244. [PubMed: 19400680]
- Ferrari V, Bradley MM, Codispoti M, Lang PJ. Massed and distributed repetition of natural scenes: Brain potentials and oscillatory activity. 2014 Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Ferrari V, Bradley MM, Codispoti M, Karlsson M, Lang PJ. Repetition and brain potentials when recognizing natural scenes: task and emotion differences. *Social Cognitive Affective Neuroscience*. 2013; 8:847–854. [PubMed: 22842817]
- Glenberg AM. Component-levels theory of the effects of spacing of repetitions on recall and recognition. *Memory & Cognition*. 1979; 7(2):95–112. [PubMed: 459836]
- Godbole NR, Delaney PF, Verkoeijen PPJL. The spacing effect in immediate and delayed free recall. *Memory*. 2014; 22(5):462–469. doi: 10.1080/09658211.2013.798416. [PubMed: 23701389]
- Greene RL. Spacing effects in memory: Evidence for a two-process account. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. 1989; 15(3):371–377.
- Grill-Spector K, Henson R, Martin A. Repetition and the brain: Neural models of stimulus-specific effects. *TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences*. 2006; 10(1):14–23. [PubMed: 16321563]
- Guerin SA, Miller MB. Lateralization of the parietal old/new effect: An event-related fMRI study comparing recognition memory for words and faces. *NeuroImage*. 2009; 44:232–242. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroimage.2008.08.035. [PubMed: 18817883]
- Henson R, Shallice T, Dolan R. Neuroimaging evidence for dissociable forms of repetition priming. *Science*. 2000; 287:1269–1272. [PubMed: 10678834]
- Hintzman DL. Judgment of frequency vs. recognition confidence: Repetition and recursive reminding. *Memory & Cognition*. 2004; 32:336–350. [PubMed: 15190724]
- Hintzman DL. How does repetition affect memory? Evidence from judgments of recency. *Memory & Cognition*. 2010; 38(1):102–115. doi: 10.3758/MC.38.1.102. [PubMed: 19966243]
- Huberle E, Lutzenberger W. Temporal properties of shape processing by event-related MEG adaptation. *NeuroImage*. 2013; 67:119–126. doi:10.1016/j.neuroimage.2012.10.070. [PubMed: 23128078]
- Ishai A, Pessoa L, Bickle PC, Ungerleider LG. Repetition suppression of faces is modulated by emotion. *PNAS*. 2004; 101(26):9827–9832. [PubMed: 15210952]
- Karpicke JD, Blunt JR. Retrieval practice produces more learning than elaborative studying with concept mapping. *Science*. 2011; 311:772–775. doi: 10.1126/science.1199327. [PubMed: 21252317]
- Karpicke JD, Roediger HL. The critical importance of retrieval for learning. *Science*. 2008; 319(5865):966–968. doi: 10.1126/science.1152408. [PubMed: 18276894]
- Kirchhoff BA, Wagner AD, Maril A, Stern CE. Prefrontal-temporal circuitry for episodic encoding and subsequent memory. *The Journal of Neuroscience*. 2000; 20(16):6173–6180. [PubMed: 10934267]

- Kompus K, Eichele T, Hugdahl K, Nyberg L. Multimodal imaging of incidental retrieval: The low route to memory. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*. 2010; 23(4):974–960.
- Lang, PJ.; Bradley, MM.; Cuthbert, BN. Motivated attention: Affect, activation and action.. In: Lang, PJ.; Simons, RF.; Balaban, MT., editors. *Attention and Orienting: Sensory and Motivational Processes*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.; Hillsdale, NJ: 1997. p. 97-135.
- Lang, PJ.; Bradley, MM.; Cuthbert, BN. International affective picture system (IAPS): Affective ratings of pictures and instruction manual Technical Report A-8. University of Florida; Gainesville, FL: 2008.
- Lang PJ, Bradley MM, Fitzsimmons JR, Cuthbert BN, Scott JD, Moulder B, Nangia V. Emotional arousal and activation of the visual cortex: An fMRI analysis. *Psychophysiology*. 1998; 35:199–210. [PubMed: 9529946]
- Larsson J, Smith AT. fMRI repetition suppression: Neuronal adaptation or stimulus expectation? *Cerebral Cortex*. 2012; 22:567–576. doi: 10.1093/cercor/bhr119. [PubMed: 21690262]
- Lee TMC, Leung M.-k. Lee TMY, Raine A, Chan CCH. I want to lie about not knowing you, but my precuneus refuses to cooperate. *Scientific Reports*. 2013; 3(1636):1–5. doi: 10.1038/srep01636.
- McDermott KB, Jones TC, Petersen SE, Lageman SK, Roediger HL. Retrieval success is accompanied by enhanced activation in anterior prefrontal cortex during recognition memory: An event-related fMRI study. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*. 2000; 12(6):965–976. [PubMed: 11177417]
- Menon V, White CD, Eliez S, Glover GH, Reiss AL. Analysis of a distributed neural system involved in spatial information, novelty, and memory processing. *Human Brain Mapping*. 2000; 11:117–129. [PubMed: 11061338]
- Nelson SM, Arnold KM, Gilmore AW, McDermott KB. Neural signatures of test-potentiated learning in parietal cortex. *Journal of Neuroscience*. 2013; 33(29):11754–11762. doi: 10.1523/jneurosci.0960-13.2013. [PubMed: 23864663]
- Nystrom LE, Braver TS, Sabb FW, Delgado MR, Noll DC, Cohen JD. Working memory for letters, shapes, and locations: fMRI evidence against stimulus-based regional organization in human prefrontal cortex. *NeuroImage*. 2000; 11:424–446. doi: 10.1006/nimg.2000.0572. [PubMed: 10806029]
- Pessoa L, Gutierrez E, Bandettini PA, Ungerleider LG. Neural correlates of visual working memory: fMRI amplitude predicts task performance. *Neuron*. 2002; 35:975–987. [PubMed: 12372290]
- Phan KL, Wager TD, Taylor SF, Liberzon I. Functional neuroimaging studies of human emotions. *CNS Spectrums*. 2004; 9:258–266. [PubMed: 15048050]
- Postle BR, Stern CE, Rosen BR, Corkin S. An fMRI investigation of cortical contributions to spatial and nonspatial visual working memory. *NeuroImage*. 2000; 11:409–423. doi: 10.1006/nimg.2000.0570. [PubMed: 10806028]
- Rotshtein P, Malach R, Hadar U, Graif M, Hendler T. Feeling or features: Different sensitivity to emotion in high-order visual cortex and amygdala. *Neuron*. 2001; 32:747–757. [PubMed: 11719213]
- Rugg MD, Curran T. Event-related potentials and recognition memory. *Trends in Cognitive Science*. 2007; 11:251–257.
- Rugg, MD.; Henson, RNA. Episodic memory retrieval: An (event-related) functional neuroimaging perspective.. In: Parker, A.; Wilding, E.; Bussey, T., editors. *The cognitive neuroscience of memory: Encoding and retrieval*. Psychology Press; Hove: 2002. p. 3-37.
- Rugg MD, Vilberg KL. Brain networks underlying episodic memory retrieval. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*. 2013; 23(2):255–260. doi: 10.1016/j.conb.2012.11.005. [PubMed: 23206590]
- Sabatinelli D, Fortune EE, Li Q, Siddiqui A, Krafft C, Oliver WT, Jeffries J. Emotional perception: Meta-analyses of face and natural scene processing. *NeuroImage*. 2011; 54:2524–2533. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroimage.2010.10.011. [PubMed: 20951215]
- Schacter DL, Addis DR, Hassabis D, Martin VC, Spreng RN, Szpunar KK. The future of memory: Remembering, imagining and the brain. *Neuron*. 2012; 76:677–694. [PubMed: 23177955]
- Segaert K, Weber K, de Lange FP, Petersson KM, Hagoort P. The suppression of repetition enhancement: A review of fMRI studies. *Neuropsychologia*. 2013; 51:59–66. [PubMed: 23159344]

- Spreng RN, Grady CL. Patterns of brain activity supporting autobiographical memory, prospection, theory-of-mind, and their relationship to the default mode network. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*. 2010; 22(16):1112–1123. [PubMed: 19580387]
- Stern CE, Corkins S, González RG, Guimaraes AR, Baker JR, Jennings PJ, Rosen BR. The hippocampal formation participates in novel picture encoding: Evidence from functional magnetic resonance imaging. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 1996; 93:8660–8665.
- Summerfield C, Trittschuh EH, Monti JM, Mesulam M-M, Egner T. Neural repetition suppression reflects fulfilled perceptual expectations. *Nature Neuroscience*. 2008; 11:1004–1006. doi: 10.1038/nn.2163.
- Tullis JG, Benjamin AS, Ross BH. The reminding effect: Presentation of associates enhances memory for related words in a list. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. 2014; 143(4):1526–1540. doi: 10.1037/a0036036. [PubMed: 24635185]
- Tulving E, Markowitsch JJ, Kapur S, Habib R, Houle S. Novelty encoding networks in the human brain: Positron emission tomography data. *Neuroreport*. 1994; 5:2525–2528. [PubMed: 7696595]
- Turk-Browne NB, Yi D-J, Chun MM. Linking implicit and explicit memory: Common encoding factors and shared representations. *Neuron*. 2006; 49:917–927. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2006.01.030. [PubMed: 16543138]
- Wagner AD, Schacter DL, Rotte M, Koutstaal W, Maril A, Dale AM, Buckner RL. Building memories: Remembering and forgetting of verbal experiences as predicted by brain activity. *Science*. 1998; 281:1188–1191. doi: 10.1126/science.281.5380.1188. [PubMed: 9712582]
- Wagner AD, Shannon BJ, Kahn I, Buckner RL. Parietal lobe contributions to episodic memory retrieval. *Trends in Cognitive Science*. 2005; 9:445–453.
- Wangelin BC, Bradley MM, Kastner A, Lang PJ. Affective engagement for facial expressions and emotional scenes: The influence of social anxiety. *Biological Psychology*. 2012; 91(1):103–110. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsycho.2012.05.002. [PubMed: 22643041]
- Ward EJ, Chun MM, Kuhl BA. Repetition suppression and multi-voxel pattern similarity differentially track implicit and explicit visual memory. *The Journal of Neuroscience*. 2013; 33(37):14749–14757. doi: 10.1523/jneurosci.4889-12.2013. [PubMed: 24027275]
- Wheeler ME, Buckner RL. Functional-anatomic correlates of remembering and knowing. *NeuroImage*. 2004; 21:1337–1349. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroimage.2003.11.001. [PubMed: 15050559]
- Wiggs CL, Martin A. Properties and mechanisms of perceptual priming. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*. 1998; 8:227–233. [PubMed: 9635206]
- Xue G, Mei L, Chen C, Lu Z-L, Poldrack R, Dong Q. Spaced learning enhances subsequent recognition memory by reducing neural repetition suppression. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*. 2011; 23(7):1624–1633. [PubMed: 20617892]
- Yassa MA, Stark CEL. Multiple signals of recognition memory in the medial temporal lobe. *Hippocampus*. 2008; 18(9):945–954. doi: 10.1002/hipo.20452. [PubMed: 18493928]

## Novel Picture Processing Regions

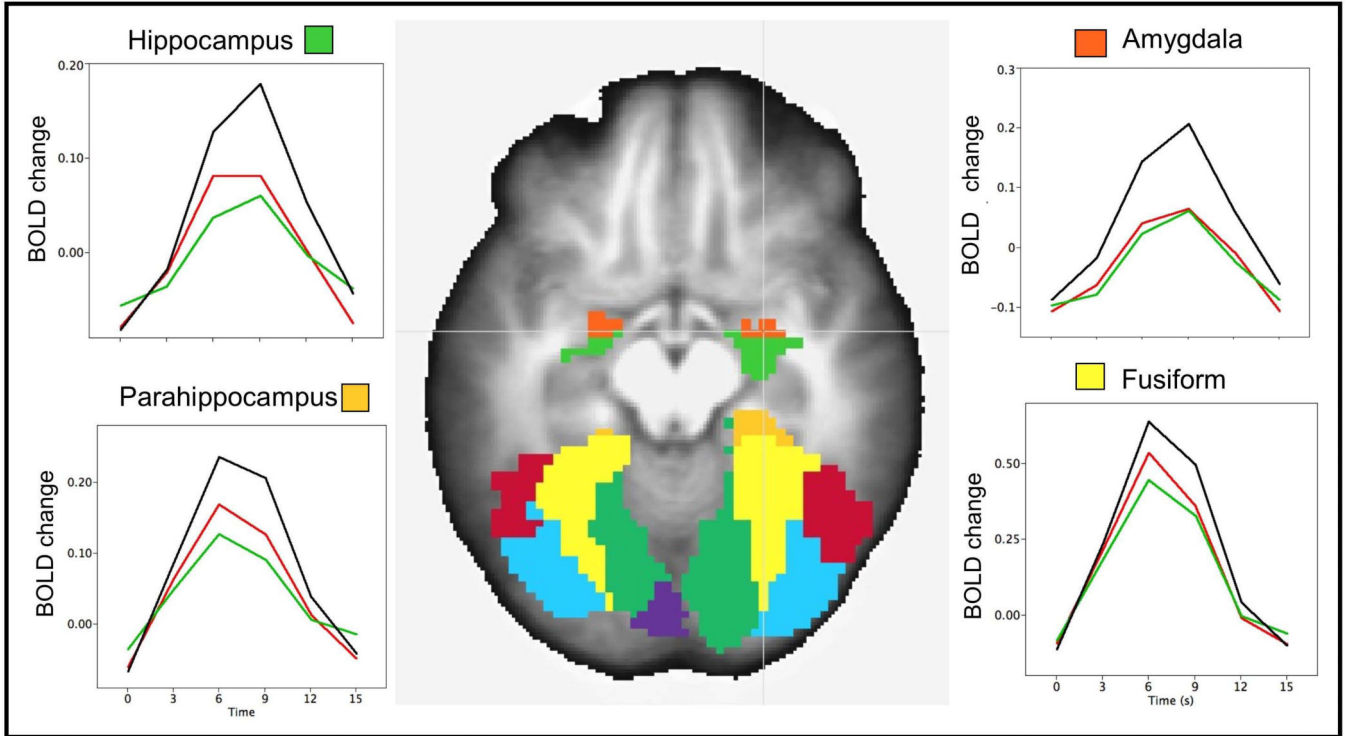


**Figure 1.**

Activation of regions that survived a conjunction analysis showing significant functional activity when viewing novel pictures that were emotional or neutral, overlaid on a structural image representing the average anatomical image across all participants. Left panels: Sagittal and coronal views depict the voxels in each anatomical region that showed significant BOLD increases (compared to 0) when viewing novel pictures. Region number (1-17) and color code is listed next to the region label in the accompanying chart, together with the Talairach coordinates (LPI) for the center of functional activity in each region, and the extent of functional activity, expressed as the proportion of voxels reaching significance as a function of the total number of voxels in each anatomical region, averaged over participants, using a strict threshold for significant BOLD change ( $p < .001$  uncorrected, cluster size 86) and a more lenient criterion ( $p < .01$ , cluster size =86). l=left; r=right; m=medial.

— Novel  
 — Distributed Repetition  
 — Massed Repetition

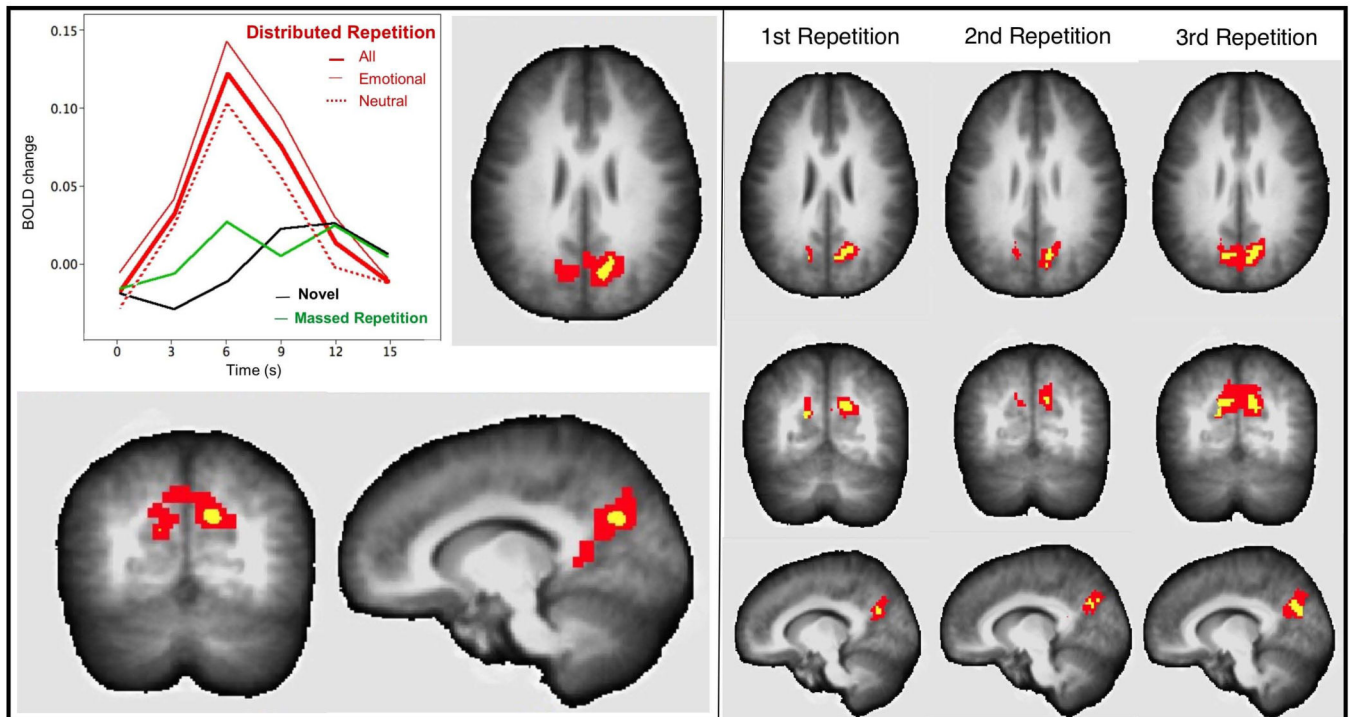
# Repetition Suppression



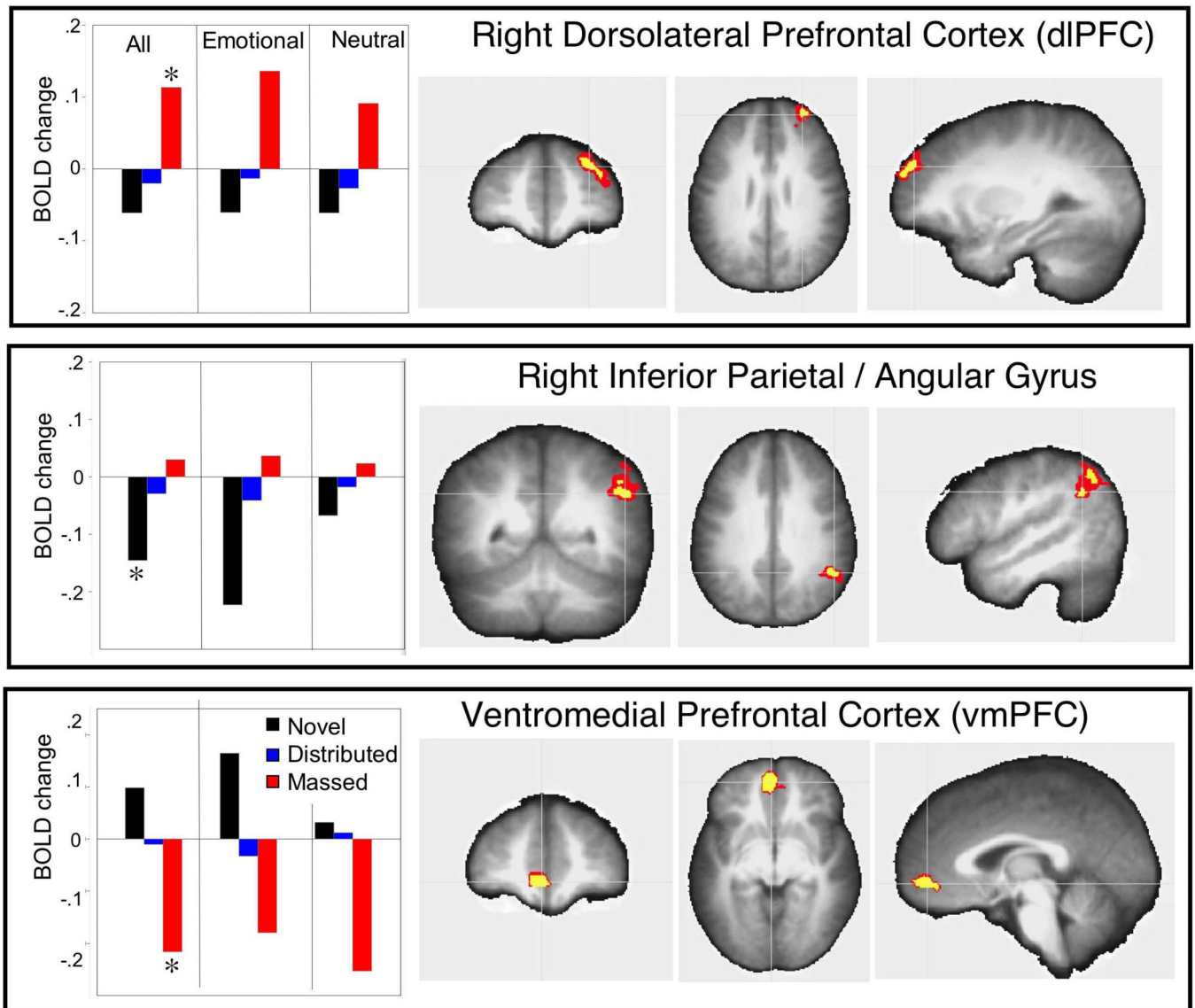
**Figure 2.** Repetition suppression effects in regions activated during novel picture processing. The BOLD waveforms illustrate the change in BOLD activity (mean change from baseline volume preceding picture onset) averaged over all participants when viewing novel pictures and those presented with massed or distributed repetition in hippocampus (top left), parahippocampus (bottom left), amygdala (top right), and fusiform (bottom right). An axial slice illustrating each region ( $z=+8$ ) is overlaid on the anatomical image averaged across all participants.



## Distributed Repetition: Enhancement



**Figure 3.** Repetition enhancement effect for distributed repetition in posterior parietal cortex (x 14, y 63, z -26) includes regions of the posterior precuneus, anterior cuneus, and posterior cingulate and is overlaid on the averaged anatomical image. The BOLD waveforms (mean change from baseline volume preceding picture onset) illustrate that functional activity is enhanced when viewing distributed repetitions, whether emotional or neutral, compared to massed repetitions, or to novel picture viewing. The right panel illustrates that repetition enhancement effects are found in a similar posterior parietal cluster on the first, second, and third distributed repetitions of each picture. The voxel colors on the overlays for the anatomical images indicate significant enhancement effects at  $p < .001$  (yellow) and  $p < .05$  (red).



**Figure 4.**

Repetition effects in regions not involved in novel picture processing are overlaid on the averaged anatomical image. Left panels: Bar graphs illustrate the mean beta averaged over novel and repeated (massed or distributed) pictures when averaged together, and separately for emotional and neutral pictures. An asterisk (\*) in the contrasts involving all pictures indicates that the condition significantly differed from the others. Top panel: Enhanced activity in a functional cluster in right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex ( $x -32$   $y -50$   $z -27$ ) was found for massed repetition, regardless of hedonic content. Middle panel: A significant decrease in BOLD activity was found for novel pictures in a cluster in right lateral inferior parietal cortex ( $x -50$   $y 51$   $z -32$ ) which was larger for emotional, compared to neutral pictures. Bottom panel: A significant decrease in BOLD activity was found for massed repetition in a cluster in ventromedial prefrontal cortex ( $x 5$   $y -47$   $z -1$ ) regardless of hedonic

content. The voxel colors on the overlays for the anatomical images indicate significance of the effects at  $p < .001$  (yellow) and  $p < .05$  (red).

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

**Table 1**

Mean BOLD change (beta) in each of the regions activated during novel picture processing regions for novel pictures or for pictures that were repeated with massed or distributed repetition, the F- statistic testing the main effect of repetition (novel, massed, distributed), and the pattern of significant differences in follow up comparisons. All of the effects of repetition in the novel picture processing regions are repetition suppression effects.

Region	Mean BOLD change			Repetition F(2,22)=	Significant difference
	Novel	Dist	Mass		
Calcarine G.	.81	.68	.62	12.8 ***	<i>a b c</i>
Lingual G.	.73	.60	.55	13.1 ***	<i>a b</i>
Inferior Occipital G.	.82	.71	.65	8.7 **	<i>a b c</i>
Middle Occipital G.	.64	.54	.47	13.3 ***	<i>a b c</i>
Superior Occipital G.	.46	.39	.35	7.0 **	<i>a b</i>
Cuneus	.56	.47	.42	8.6 ***	<i>a b</i>
Fusiform G.	.74	.58	.52	20.7 ****	<i>a b c</i>
Inferior Temporal G.	.59	.45	.39	17.9 ****	<i>a b c</i>
Middle Temporal G.	.47	.37	.33	16.5 ****	<i>a b</i>
Superior Parietal L.	.50	.42	.38	-----	-----
Thalamus	.24	.16	.14	9.2 **	<i>a b</i>
ParaHippocampal G.	.31	.21	.14	18.6 ****	<i>a b c</i>
Hippocampus	.26	.16	.12	20.0 ****	<i>a b c</i>
Amygdala	.32	.19	.14	12.0 ***	<i>a b</i>
SMA	.32	.28	.31	-----	-----
Precentral G.	.40	.30	.29	8.7 **	<i>a b</i>
Inferior Frontal G.	.41	.28	.26	23.8 ****	<i>a b</i>

\*p&lt;.05

\*\*\*\*  
p<.0001\*\*\*  
p<.001\*\*  
p<.01<sup>a</sup> Novel > Distributed repetition<sup>b</sup> Novel > Massed repetition<sup>c</sup> Distributed repetition > Massed Repetition

**Table 2**

Mean BOLD signal change (beta) in novel picture processing regions when viewing novel emotional and neutral pictures, the F test and p-value of the statistical difference (emotional, neutral).

Region	Mean BOLD Change		F(1,23)	p-value
	Emotional	Neutral		
Calcarine G.	.84	.79	1.6	.22
Lingual G.	.76	.71	2.2	.15
Inferior Occipital G. *	.92	.72	26.4	<.0001
Middle Occipital G. *	.70	.58	15.6	.0006
Superior Occipital G. *	.50	.43	8.4	.008
Cuneus	.57	.54	1.3	.26
Fusiform G.	.78	.70	6.8	.02
Inferior Temporal G. *	.69	.48	45.7	<.0001
Middle Temporal G.	.54	.41	10.1	.004
Superior Parietal L.	.55	.45	4.9	.03
Thalamus	.27	.21	2.4	.14
ParaHippocampal G.	.31	.31	<1	.95
Hippocampus	.30	.23	6.8	.02
Amygdala *	.41	.23	16.8	.0004
SMA	.37	.27	4.2	.05
Precentral G.	.46	.33	10.7	.003
Inferior Frontal G.	.47	.34	8.3	.009

G=gyrus; l=lobe; SMA=supplementary motor area

\* Asterisks identify regions in which the emotional-neutral difference was significant with a Bonferroni correction ( $p=.002$ ).

**Table 3**

Repetition suppression effects in regions active during novel picture processing separately for emotional and neutral pictures that were presented with massed or distributed repetition, and significance of the t-test comparing suppression for emotional and neutral scenes.

REGION	Amount of Suppression <sup>a</sup>					
	Massed			Distributed		
	Emot	Neu	t-test	Emot	Neu	t-test
Calcarine G.	.15	.24	*	.13	.13	
Lingual G.	.14	.23	*	.12	.15	
Inferior Occipital G.	.15	.19		.08	.14	
Middle Occipital G.	.15	.20		.07	.14	
Superior Occipital G.	.09	.15		.05	.11	
Cuneus	.11	.17		.09	.10	
Fusiform G.	.18	.26		.13	.19	
Inferior Temporal G.	.20	.20		.12	.15	
Middle Temporal G.	.13	.16		.09	.12	
Superior Parietal L.	.05	.17	*	.01	.15	*
Thalamus	.08	.13		.08	.09	
ParaHippocampal G.	.12	.21	*	.11	.09	
Hippocampus	.11	.18		.12	.08	
Amygdala	.15	.20		.17	.10	
SMA	-.01	.03		.03	.05	
Precentral G.	.10	.12		.09	.10	
Inferior Frontal G.	.14	.16		.13	.12	

\* p<.05

<sup>a</sup>Suppression is calculated as the reduction in mean BOLD signal change (beta value) when the BOLD signal change measured during repetition is subtracted from the BOLD signal change measured during novel picture processing.