Interference between Different Memory Systems

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Learning new motor or cognitive skills in succession can be frustrating because no sooner has new knowledge been acquired than its retention is being jeopardized by learning another set of facts or skills. Interference occurs between the same types of memories, and more recent work has shown that interference can also occur between different types of memories. For example, learning a motor skill and then a word-list disrupts the consolidation of the motor skill impairing its subsequent performance. Recent work, which I will describe in the talk has provide mechanistic insights into how memory system interactions occur, which has implications for our understanding of consolidation, interference, memory organization and may provide new strategies for rehabilitation.

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