

The role of prediction and attention in phantom voice perception

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PROPOSITIONS

The role of prediction and attention in phantom voice perception

by SX Duggirala

1. “Indeed, the line between perceiving and hallucinating is not as crisp as we like to think. In a sense, when we look at the world, we are hallucinating all the time. One could almost regard perception as the act of choosing the one hallucination that best fits the incoming data.” – V.S. Ramachandran, *The Tell-Tale Brain: A Neuroscientist's Quest for What Makes Us Human*
2. Is attentional control simply a tug-of-war between top-down and bottom-up influences, or is there more to the story? – *chapters 2 & 3, this thesis*
3. Emotion perception varies from person to person. Take, for instance, a brief vocalization: what one person perceives as anger, another may interpret as pain. – *chapters 4-6, this thesis*
4. Sensory prediction and attentional control: two sides of the same coin in voice hearing? – *chapters 4 & 6, this thesis*
5. Pilot first for smooth sailing! Good science needs time and patience. It is imperative to test paradigms and analysis pipelines before actual data collection. – *this thesis*.
6. From a continuum viewpoint of mental disorders, we all live on a spectrum of varying degrees of eccentricity. – *impact, this thesis*
7. “I did not hear the voices aurally. They were much more intimate than that, and inescapable. It’s hard to describe how I could ‘hear’ a voice that wasn’t auditory; but the words the voices used and the emotions they contained (hatred and disgust) were completely clear, distinct, and unmistakable, maybe even more so than if I had heard them aurally.” – Woods et al., 2015, p. 326
8. We all find motivation at the beginning, cherish happy endings, but it is in the middle that everything feels like a struggle. – *Realization during the undertaking of this dissertation*
9. Null findings are meaningful and worthy of publication.
10. Curiosity kept the cat alive.