PROPOSITION OF THE THESIS

Psychophysical investigations of perceptual learning and attention
New insights into old principles

Gesa Lange

1 Transfer of orientation discrimination results from early phases of learning, whereas specificity results from late, asymptotic learning.

2 A form of exposure-related adaptation may contribute to perceptual learning, but with attention a more robust memory trace will be created.

3 Memory traces can be modified by new experiences.

4 Temporary withdrawal of attentional resources might be indexed by a reduction of microsaccade rate in the attentional blink effect; but attention and microsaccades could also contribute separately to this effect.

5 A well-designed and hypothesis-driven psychophysical study can be deeply informative and truly beautiful.

6 Participants are the true heroes in learning studies – more than half a million trials completed by only eight participants in a single study puts a number on their devotedness.

7 Behavior is a crucial aspect of human life; neuroscience should therefore not neglect it.

8 Valuing knowledge and ‘valorizing’ it are two fundamentally different things.

9 Art is I; science is we. Claude Bernard