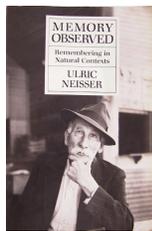


How people use the past

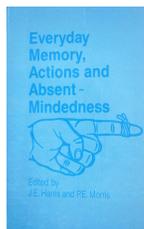


1978

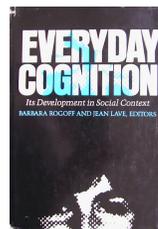
Neisser's observation

- “If X is an interesting memory phenomenon, psychologists avoid it like the plague.”

Signs of progress since 1978



1984

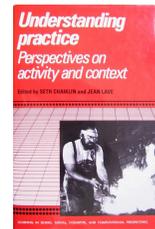


1984

Everyday Practices

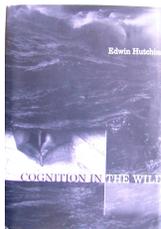


1988

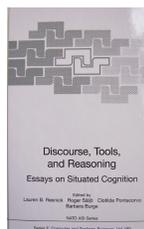


1993

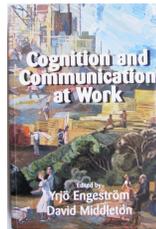
Cognition at work



1995



1997

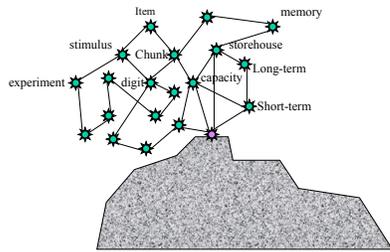


1998

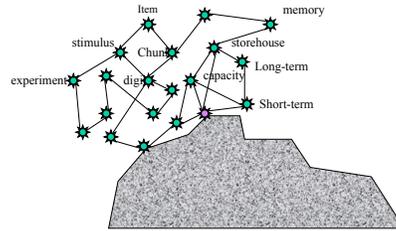
Important ideas

- Does “memory” in general exist?
 - Perhaps it is a holdover from a medieval psychology.
- Ecological validity and representativeness
 - Naturalists and naturalistic observations
 - Ethology, upsets learning theory by showing that “learning” (as it was conceived in psychological theory) is not a useful category for understanding animal behavior
 - Esoteric tasks, puzzles, and the cultural process of finding good representations
- Schemata

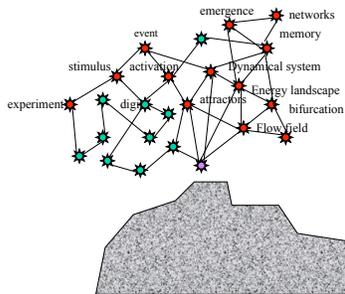
Memory as constructed in the human information processing community



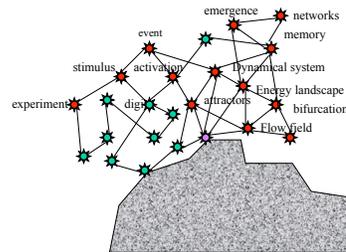
The demonstration of the fact that the **capacity** of human short term memory is 7 ± 2 chunks



The construction of short-term memory by the dynamical systems community



The demonstration of the fact that the human short-term memory system can form at most 7 ± 2 periodic attractors.



Neisser's big issue

- How people use their own past experiences in meeting the present and the future under natural conditions.

Our bigger issue

- How people use their minds under natural conditions.

Important Questions

- What is the purpose and nature of remembering?
- How do we remember?
- Why do we sometimes fail?
- Who remembers what and why?
- What do students remember of classes?
- Are there functionally different types of memory in everyday life? If so, what are they?

Using the past to construct our selves

- Involuntary memories
- Recovered (or constructed) memories
- Memory of childhood experiences
- Cole's example "She won't be a rugby player" (prolepsis)

Official remembering

- Eyewitness testimony
- Remembering history
- Flashbulb memories
- Kunagesa's memory for magic

An ecological view

- Remembering as a skill
- Cultural practices as cognitive enzymes
 - We are good at remembering the information required for our skilled performances.

It is not going to be easy.

- "The psychological laboratory is the easiest setting in which to work, but it is also among the least interesting"
- "The realistic study of memory is much harder than the work we have been accustomed to."
- To find out about how people make use of the past in their everyday lives, we must look carefully at the everyday world.

But we could do it with our cognitoscope

- If it was properly tuned.