

Awareness and Working Memory in Strategy Adaptivity

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Abstract

To further the understanding of the mechanisms of strategy choice, in three experiments, we investigate the role of explicit awareness and working memory in strategy adaptivity.

Experiment 1 provides correlational evidence that individual differences in strategy adaptivity to changing base-rates are related to individual differences in awareness of those changes but appear not to be related to individual differences in working memory capacity. Experiment 2 replicates the role of awareness and suggests that it is awareness at the time of the base-rate change rather than afterwards that is related to increased strategy adaptivity. Experiment 3 measures working memory capacity using a different procedure and manipulates working memory load with a dual task procedure, and finds, once again, no apparent role of working memory capacity in strategy adaptivity. This juxtaposition of findings presents a challenge for existing models of strategy choice.