Announcements

- Note-taker needed for DRC
From Last Time...
States of Consciousness
I. Consciousness -- Overview

A. What is consciousness (csns.)
   1. Csns is the selective attention (e.g. “Cocktail Party”)
I find myself agreeing with the eminent Cambridge philosopher, Dr. C. D. Broad... "The suggestion is that the function of the brain and nervous system and sense organs is in the main eliminative and not productive. ... The function of the brain and nervous system is to protect us from being overwhelmed and confused by this mass of largely useless and irrelevant knowledge, by shutting out most of what we should otherwise perceive or remember at any moment, and leaving only that very small and special selection which is likely to be practically useful."

According to such a theory, each one of us is potentially Mind at Large. But in so far as we are animals, our business is at all costs to survive. To make biological survival possible, Mind at Large has to be funneled through the reducing valve of the brain and nervous system. What comes out at the other end is a measly trickle of the kind of consciousness which will help us survive on this planet.

Most people, most of the time, know only what comes through the reducing valve and is consecrated as genuinely real by the local language. Certain persons, however, seem to be born with a kind of by-pass that circumvents the reducing valve. In others temporary by-passes may be acquired either spontaneously, or as the result of deliberate "spiritual exercises," or through hypnosis, or by means of drugs. Through these permanent or temporary by-passes there flows, not indeed the perception "of everything that is happening everywhere in the universe" ... but something more than, and above all something different from, the carefully selected utilitarian material which our narrowed, individual minds regard as a complete, or at least sufficient, picture of reality.
I. Consciousness -- Overview

A. What is consciousness (csns.)
   1. Csns is the **selective attention**
   2. Csns involves **voluntary control**
   3. **Self-awareness**

B. Consciousness without awareness?
II. The seat of csns in the brain

A. Descartes' notion of the Pineal
II. The seat of csns in the brain

A. Descartes' notion of the Pineal

B. Findings from split-brain research
   1. Is consciousness inherently tied to language
   2. Does each hemisphere have its own type of csns

Gazzanaga
LAUGH * CLAP
KISS * JUMP
II. The seat of csns in the brain

A. Descartes' notion of the Pineal

B. Findings from split-brain research
   1. Is consciousness inherently tied to language
   2. Does each hemisphere have its own type of csns
   3. Do we have two csns's?
Is this really consciousness?

- Follow one-word commands
- Simple games

“Are you trying to make two people out of me?”
Distinct Hemisphere Preferences in Split-Brain Patient

- Colors
- Clothing
- Faces
II. The seat of csns in the brain

A. Descartes' notion of the Pineal

B. Findings from split-brain research
   1. Is consciousness inherently tied to language
   2. Does each hemisphere have its own type of csns
   3. Do we have two csns's?
   4. Lecturer's conclusion
Consciousness

Internal Reality #1

Internal Reality #2

Internal Reality #3
III. Altered States of csns

A. We all experience variations in our states of consciousness

B. The difficulty in deciding what is / is not an altered state of consciousness
III. Altered States of csns

C. What gives us a unified sense of consciousness over time?

1. Identity
2. Memory
3. Relatively uninterrupted stream of consciousness
III. Altered States of csns

D. Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder) = a profound disturbance in the normally integrative functions of identity, memory, or consciousness.
My Spiel
Increasing Prevalence of DID

- Primarily a North American phenomenon
Perspectives on the Genesis of DID

- Post-traumatic Model (e.g. Gleaves, 1996)

- Socio-cognitive Model (Spanos, 1994, 1996)
DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria

- Disruption of identity characterized by two or more distinct personality states

- Recurrent gaps in the recall of everyday events, important personal information, and/or traumatic events that are inconsistent with ordinary forgetting

- Drug/medical rule outs
Sample Studies of Inter-identity Amnesia

- Sometimes find amnesia between identities
- Always find transfer of memory between identities

From Allen & Iacono, PPPL, 2001
Interpretations

- Transfer represents implicit memory
- Parsimonious Alternative: Motivated behavior
The DID Study
Procedure

- Identity A
  - Hears List A (24 words)
  - Shallow encoding via syllable judgment

- Switch to Identity B

- Identity B
  - Hears List B (24 words)
  - Exclusion Test in Visual Modality
    - Make judgment – “was it on list B?”
  - Three classes of stimuli
    - “A” Words (24)
    - “B” Words (24)
    - Distractors (24)

Kong, Allen, Glisky, 2008
Was it on List B?

- If amnesic, this is a simple recognition task
- For someone with memory for List A, this is an exclusion task that requires source memory
- DIFFICULT!
Participants

- Seven patients meeting DSM-IV criteria for DID
  - Assessed with SCID-D
- 6 females and one male
- All had some college education, two with graduate degrees
- All had history of other disorders (by self report)
- Number of identities: 4-16
- Four or Five matched controls for each patient
  - Asked to simulate DID performance

Kong, Allen, Glisky, 2008
Results

DID Control

List A
List B
Distractor
Individual Patients (with controls)
Individual Patients (with controls)

DID 06 Control

DID 07 Control

DID 08 Control
The Nature of Amnesia in DID

- Fabrication?
  - Not obviously so
- Social Construction (Spanos, 1994, 1996)
  - Constructivist account of memory may also explain amnesia in DID (Allen & Iacono, 2001)
Cognitive mechanisms in Socially-Constructed DID: A Humble Proposal

- Memory is constructive and reconstructive
- Any mnemonic experience involves
  - Encoding
  - Storage
  - Retrieval
  - Evaluation
- All of the above are guided by schemas and agendas (Johnson, 1997)
A mental representation is identified as a memory to the extent that it involves:

- A sufficient number of features
- The proper configuration of features
- All evaluated in terms of our understanding

This account has been used in explaining *false* memories

May also explain how inter-identity amnesia may develop over time
End of Spiel
Synopsis of Spiel

1. Two perspectives: Post-traumatic versus socio-cognitive
2. DID diagnosis requires amnesia
3. Folks who report amnesia during an interview are not guaranteed to show objective evidence of amnesia in the laboratory, as evidenced by my study and several others
4. Claims of amnesia in DID are best treated with some skeptical thinking.
IV. State & mood dependent memory

A. Memory better for events/information if tested in same state or mood as during learning

B. Memory better for events/information consistent with current mood or state
Encoding → Storage → Retrieval

Cue #1

Cue #2

Cue #3

Cue #4