

Right hemisphere involvement in updating and Theory of Mind



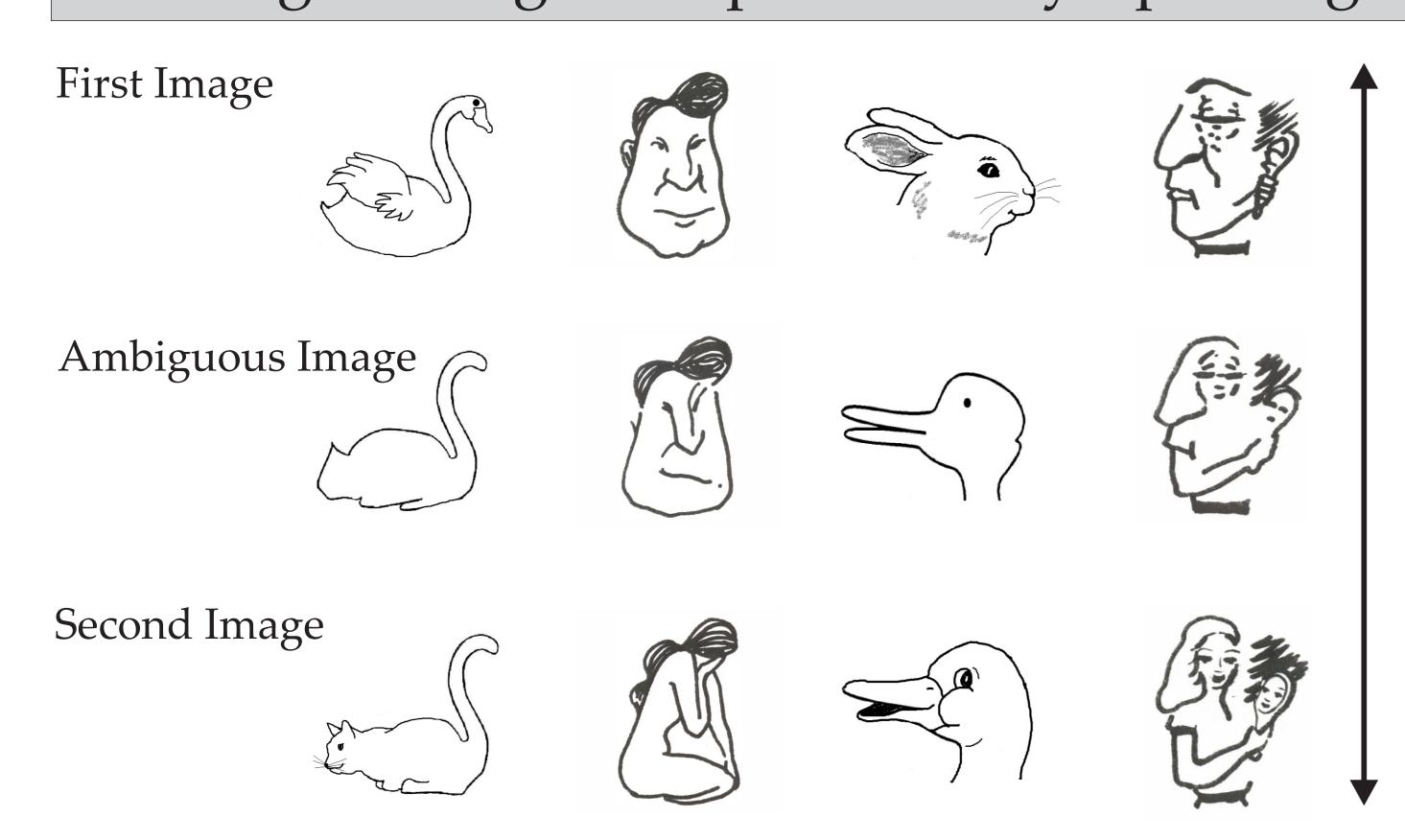
Elisabeth Stöttinger¹, Eva Rafetseder³, Britt Anderson¹², James Danckert¹, ¹Department of Psychology, University of Waterloo, ²Center for Theoretical Neuroscience, University of Waterloo, ³University of Konstanz

Updating deficit after right brain damage

- □ Mental model = hypothesis about the world based on experience
- □ When predictions of mental model ≠ incoming data:
- (1) detect mismatch
- (2) revise model
- □ Updating in the right hemisphere: Danckert et al (2012):
- □ If Right Hemisphere responsible for updating: updating impairment in a different task that does not require learning & is independent on detecting statistic regularities

Right Brain Damaged (RBD)	Healthy Controls (HCO)
N = 12 (8 male)	N = 12 (7 male)
$MoCA^* = 23.17 (\pm 4.57)$	$MoCA = 26.6 (\pm 2.0)$
$Age^* = 65.00 (\pm 8.10) \text{ years},$	Age = $72.25 (\pm 5.22)$ years

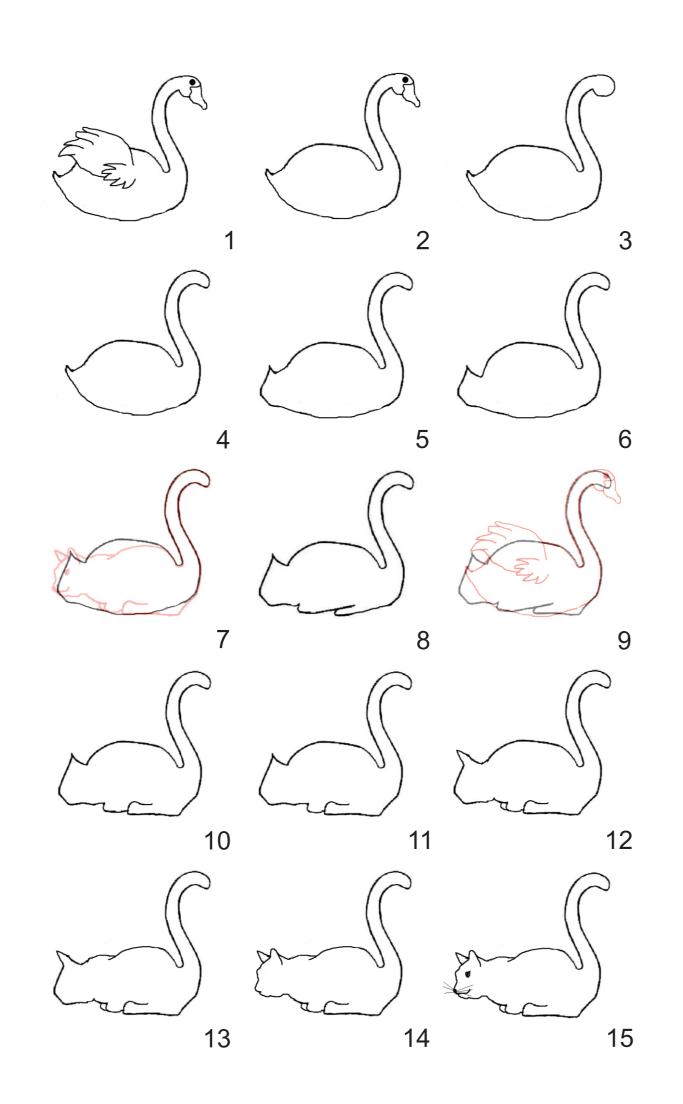
Ambiguous figures: quick & easy updating



- □ Four picture sets based on ambiguous figures (picture # 8)
- ☐ Pictures changed gradually to the two extremes
- □ 17 pictures per picture set (15 pictures + 2 catch trials)
- □ 8 different sequences counterbalanced between participants

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Updating models based on gradual change



Instructions:

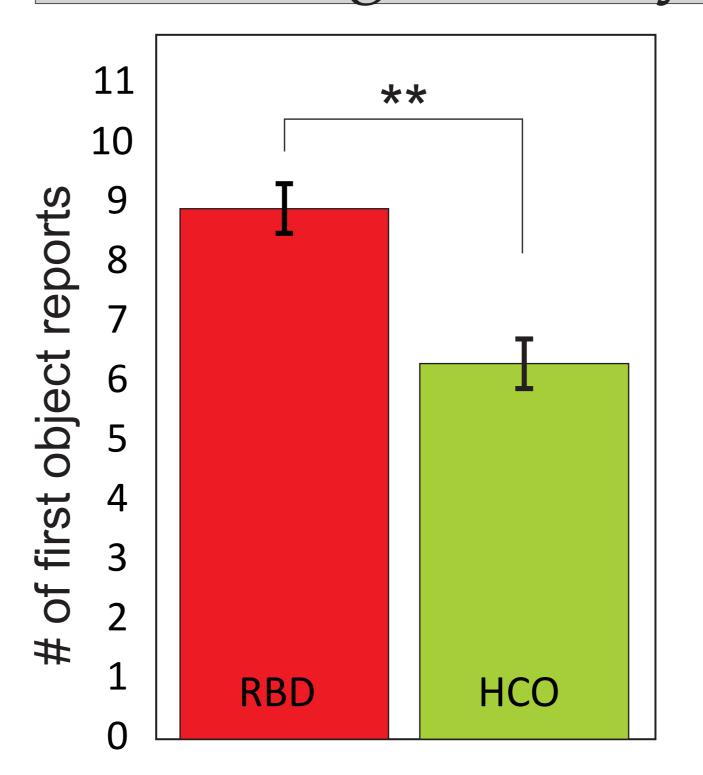
"I will show you series of pictures that begin with the picture of a commonly known object. It will then change gradually over the pictures to finally show a completely different object by the end of the series. Tell me for each picture what you see".

Dependent Variable:

first object reports

Logic: The longer participants report the first object, the less efficiently they update.

RBDs significantly impaired in updating



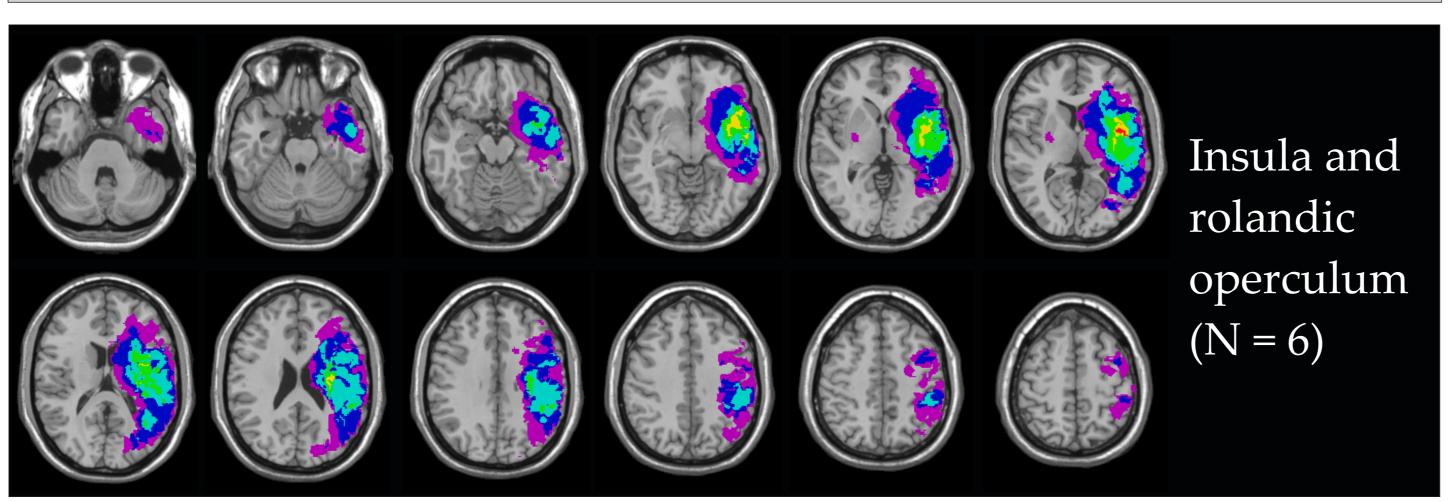
General cognitive impairment?

MoCA & # first object reports: HCO: $\tau = -.68**, p < .01$ RBD: $\tau = -.19$, p > .40

Perseveration?

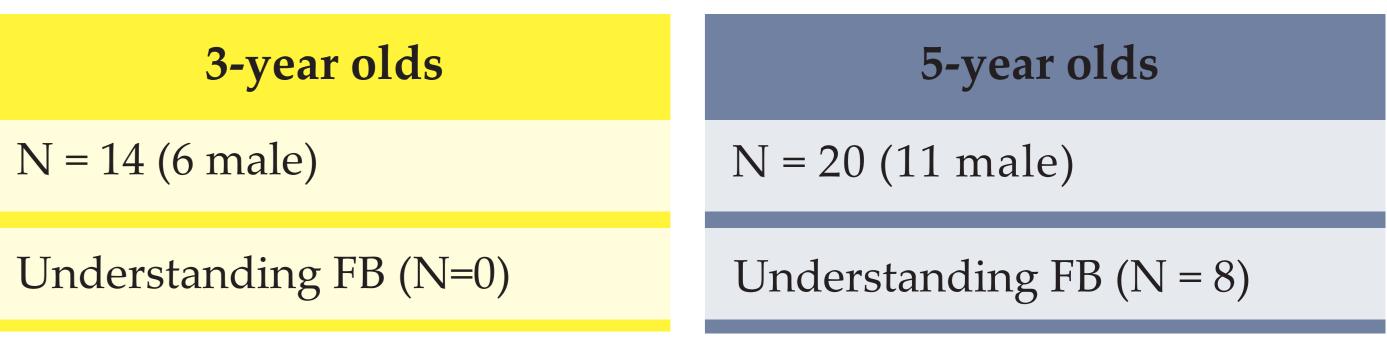
- ☑ all participants 100% correct on catch trials
- ☑ RBDs see differences, BUT they interpret these differences in favor of the first object

Lesions predicting the worst performance



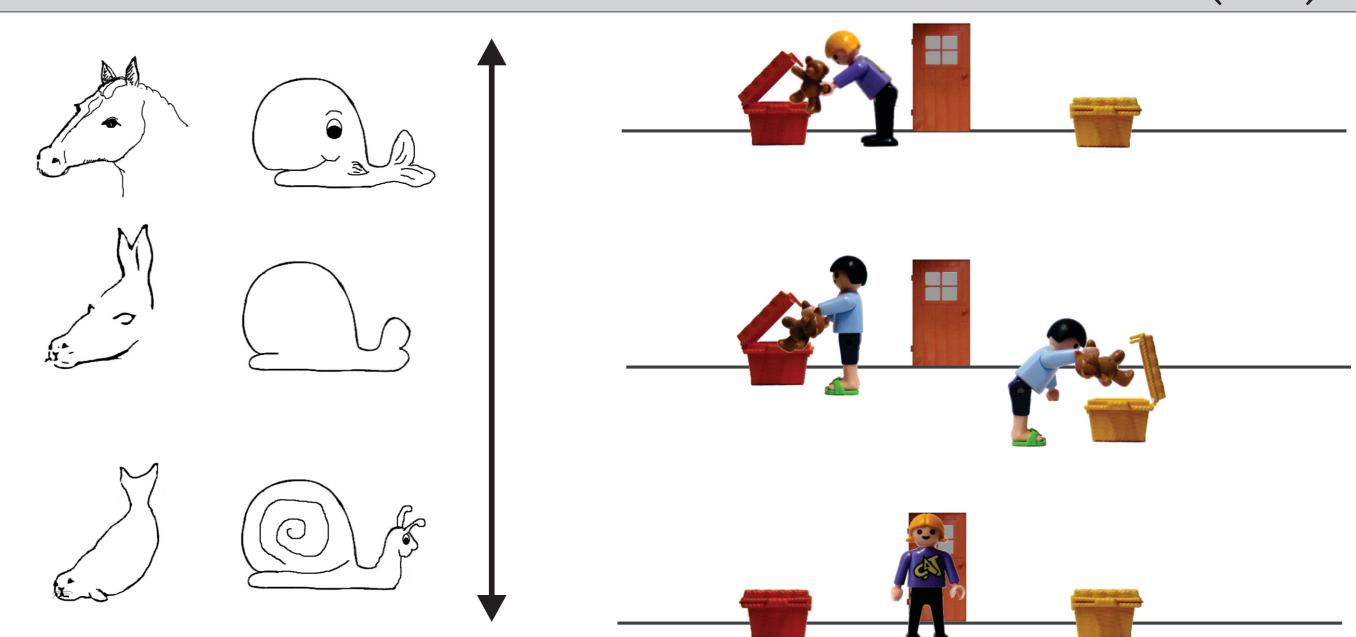
Updating and Theory of Mind (ToM)

- □ ToM = the ability to attribute intentional states to ourselves and others (Perner, 1991)
- □ Griffin et al (2006): lesions in the right BA 44 & 45 and the right insula predict ToM impairment in RBD patients



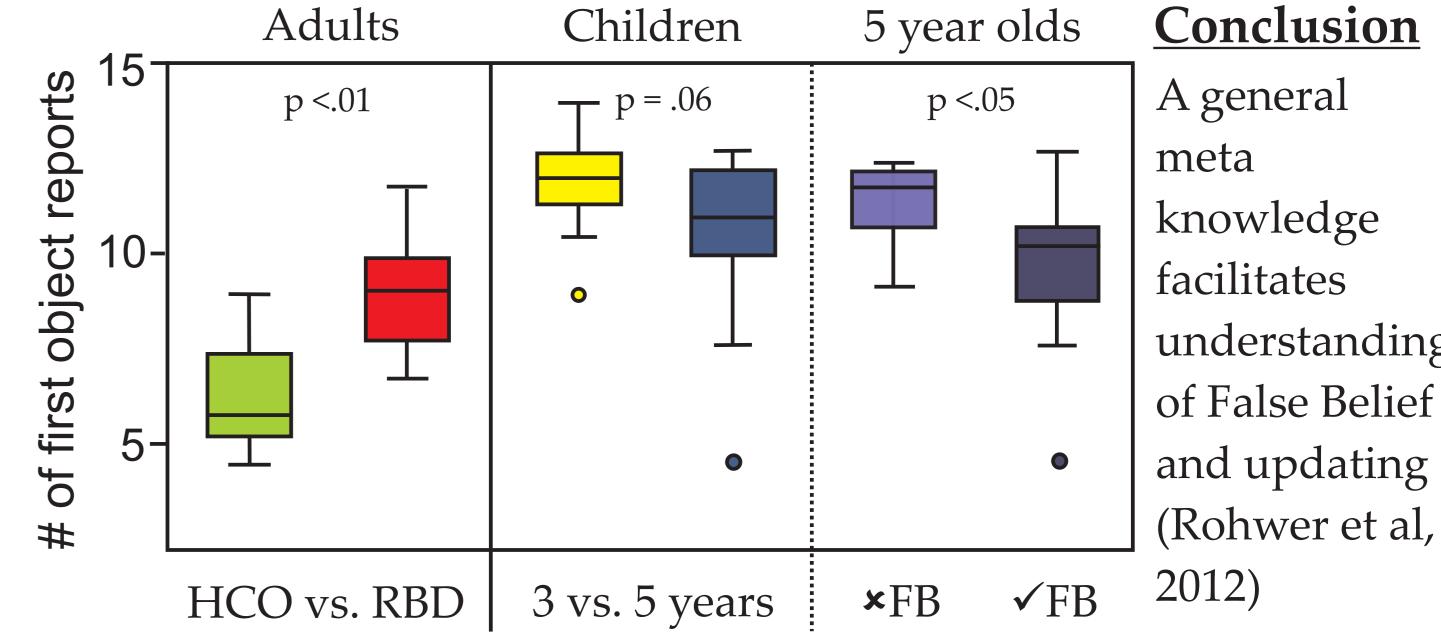
Excluded if (1) 'strange' answers (2) less than two picture sets (3) unable to identify the last object (4) unable to identify both catch trials. Seven 3 year olds and three 5 year olds were excluded.

Two different sets & False Belief Task (FB)



Understanding false belief: (1) Correctly predict Lisa's behavior & (2) can explain why (referring to a mental state or relevant story facts)

False Belief understanding predicts updating



understanding and updating (Rohwer et al,