

The PuttingZone “Cherry Picked” Selection of *Scientific American* Articles about the Brain and Mind according to Modern Neuroscience

**Focusing on those 224 articles in 2009-2012 potentially
relevant to perception and movement and other skills
involved in putting tasks.**



**PuttingZone
Science**

Geoff Mangum

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Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mind Matters

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[Psychology Uncovers Sex Appeal of Dark Personalities](#)

Why are narcissists more physically attractive?

By [Daisy Grewal](#) | Nov 27, 2012 | [22](#)

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[Scientists Probe Human Nature--and Discover We Are Good, After All](#)

Recent studies find our first impulses are selfless

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[How the Stress of Disaster Brings People Together](#)

New evidence that men are more likely to cooperate in difficult circumstances

By [Emma Seppala](#) | Nov 6, 2012 | [5](#)

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Scientists Dissect the Psychology of "Truthiness"

Researchers find a simple way to make statements seem truer

By [Travis Riddle](#) | Oct 31, 2012 | [17](#)

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Men and Women Can't Be "Just Friends"

Researchers asked women and men "friends" what they really think—and got very different answers

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How the Power of Expectations Can Allow You to 'Bend Reality'

Journalist Chris Berdik explains the many ways that what is expected shapes what happens

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[What Does the Way You Walk Say about You?](#)

Psychologists explore the outer limits of first impressions

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[8 How Science Explains America's Great Moral Divide](#)

Researcher Jonathan Haidt delves into the psychology of red state/blue state, and offers hope for reconciliation

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The brain rewires itself to boost the remaining senses

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The mere presence of a phone affects how you relate to others

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Thinking about options decreases support for equality and reduces empathy

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New concepts don't replace incorrect ones: they just learn to live together

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[14 Social Network Size Linked to Brain Size](#)

How and why the volume of the orbital prefrontal cortex is related to the size of social networks

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A psychology researcher (and magician) explains what happens after you hear “think of a card”
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New research suggests better liars are better at spotting lies
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- [17 Trying to Resist Temptation? Think about God](#)**
The new science of self-control shows that religious themes can bolster willpower
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Scientists are discovering the primal links between physical warmth and our emotions
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If males feel their masculinity may be at stake, they are more likely to cut ethical corners
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New evidence suggests drugs like LSD open the doors of perception by inhibiting parts of the brain
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When you fix your eyes on something, your mind distorts
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As riches grow, empathy for others seems to decline
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The brain uses a fundamentally different circuit for paying attention to the internal world, and this could have important implications for stress and mental illness.
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- 31 How to Use Light to Control the Brain**
Shades of Proust: Using "optogenetics," researchers are able to trigger a memory
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- 32 A Neuroscientist's Quest to Reverse Engineer the Human Brain**
M.I.T. scientist Sebastian Seung describes the audacious plan to find the connectome--a map of every single neuron in the brain. Here, he says, is the secret of human identity
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- 33 Why Interacting with a Woman Can Leave Men "Cognitively Impaired"**
In one experiment, just telling a man he would be observed by a

female was enough to hurt his psychological performance.
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Morning people have more insights in the evening. Night owls have their breakthroughs in the morning
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There is a deep connection between the way your brain and a swarm of bees arrives at a decision
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Researchers suggest a theory of "neural inertia" to explain a puzzle about how patients emerge from unconsciousness
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A man's face can "grab" anger from someone standing nearby. But a woman's face tends to grab happiness.
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Yawning is more contagious among people who are emotionally close
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Author Susan Cain explains the fallacy of "groupwork," and points to research showing that it can reduce creativity and productivity
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[40 In Atheists We Distrust](#)

Subjects believe that people behave better when they think that God is watching over them
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Scientists use "prediction errors" to understand the brain's natural optimism
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- [42 What Hand You Favor Shapes Your Moral Space](#)**
Being right- or left-handed affects your psychology in many ways, recent research shows
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- [43 The Hidden Logic of Deception](#)**
Prominent biologist Robert Trivers probes the deep origins of deceit and offers a solution to the Darwinian paradox of self-deception
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The trouble the brain has spotting rare items--and what might be done about it
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Scientists measure the "doorway effect," and it supports a novel model of human memory
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Research shows that older people can make better decisions if they rely more on their emotions
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There is, it turns out, more than one kind of "objectification"
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[54 History and the Decline of Human Violence](#)

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New research into how liberals and conservatives think differently.
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New research sheds light on how and why we remember dreams--and what purpose they are likely to serve
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It's up to your brain how long a moment lasts
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Scientists monitor the brains of teens listening to songs and find the breakout hits tend to share certain neural signatures
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- 71 [Religious Experiences Shrink Part of the Brain](#)**
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- 72 [The Learning Brain Gets Bigger--Then Smaller](#)**
New studies map the changing landscape of neurons as the brain masters a task
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What if schizophrenia or autism are just symptoms of a deeper disorder? A scientist explains the early, exciting findings from copy number variation (CNV) studies
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- 75 [How the Illusion of Being Observed Can Make You a Better Person](#)**
Even a poster with eyes on it changes how people behave
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- 77 [The Neuroscience of the Gut](#)**
Strange but true: the brain is shaped by bacteria in the digestive tract
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- 78 [How Self-Control Works](#)**
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Push the pedal, and the brain is less able to rewire itself. Ease up and, perhaps, an old brain will turn young again
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- 98 [Recognizing Spatial Intelligence](#)**
Our schools, and our society, must do more to recognize spatial

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There is actually some science behind "magical thinking" and the edge that it can give people
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Birth control pills appear to remodel brain structure
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What happens in the brain when you hear an accent--and why you are less likely to trust the speaker
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Study casts new light on the brain mechanisms behind recurrent bouts of intense anxiety

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A 22-year-old author discusses the threat that brain science poses to our concept of free will

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Blocking the birth of new neurons helps hook rats on cocaine

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To get rid of a bad memory you may need to relive it first

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Teens' brains reveal discomfort when taste fails to conform

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Human brains are slow to develop--a secret, perhaps, of our success

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A new study suggests that brain activity may give away dishonest intent

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Computer scientist Sep Kamvar discusses the ways researchers are beginning to tap the blogosphere for psychological insights

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Mothers-to-be get better at recognizing emotions

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Even obviously manipulative compliments are remarkably effective

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When smarter people's brains are scanned while "at rest," long-distance connections appear stronger

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Legal scholar Elyn Saks talks about her struggles with, and surprising triumphs over, mental illness

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Can a brain scanner decode your inner thoughts?

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How the pursuit of status can lead to aggressive and self-defeating behavior

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A study suggests that spending time in nature changes our values

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How do people learn complex new skills, such as juggling and reading?

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How blind people "see" the actions of others

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What happens when Harvard scientists use a brain scanner to look for the devil inside?

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Nearly 90 percent of the brain is composed of glial cells, not neurons. Andrew Koob argues that these overlooked cells just might be the source of the imagination

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140Getting It Wrong: Surprising Tips on How to Learn

New research makes the case for hard tests, and suggests an unusual technique that anyone can use to learn

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A new experiment reveals why we always want to know the answer

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143Does Falling in Love Make Us More Creative?

A new study demonstrates that thinking about love--but not about sex--causes us to think more "globally," making it easier to come up with new ideas

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144Why Does Music Make Us Feel?

A new study demonstrates the power of music to alter our emotional perceptions of other people

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145Girl Brain, Boy Brain?

The two are not the same, but new work shows just how wrong it is to assume that all gender differences are "hardwired"

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Two scientists suggest that depression is not a malfunction, but a

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Sue Barry discusses what it's like to live in a 2-D world and explains how she learned to see in stereo
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New research reveals how meditation changes the brain

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158 With a wave of the hand

How using gestures can make you smarter

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159 When Senses Intersect

The neurologist Richard Cytowic discusses what synesthesia can teach us about ordinary perception, creativity and Vladimir Nabokov

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The emerging--and disturbing--science of how candidates' physical appearances influence our choice in leaders

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A recent multicenter clinical trial of a commercial brain fitness program makes a case for why we should take brain games more seriously.

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162 Come Together: Our Need to Cooperate

What conga lines at dance parties and chanting soccer fanatics reveal about our deep need to coordinate with others

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163 The Mind-Body Problem

What does it feel like to have too many arms?

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164 Do Parents Matter?

A researcher argues that peers are much more important than parents, that psychologists underestimate the power of genetics, and that we have a lot to learn from Asian classrooms

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165 The Neuroscience of Yorick's Ghost and Other Afterimages

This is the eighth article in the [Mind Matters](#) series on the neuroscience behind visual illusions.

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166 What Can Magicians Teach Us about the Brain?

Neuroscience can learn a lot by tapping the intuitive knowledge of magicians as new sources for inspiration and study.

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167 Building the 21st-Century Mind

A professor of cognition and education reveals the five minds you need for success, how to make better decisions, and why ethics are critical.

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168 Does Eating Fewer Calories Improve the Brain?

A new study reports that reducing calories may improve memory in older adults.

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169 Forget Survival of the Fittest: It Is Kindness That Counts

A psychologist probes how altruism, Darwinism and neurobiology mean that we can succeed by *not* being cutthroat.

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170 Could Living in a Mentally Enriching Environment Change Your Genes?

When mice are exposed to enriched environments, their offspring can overcome genetic defects that impair long-term memory.

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171 In Defense of the Value of Social Neuroscience

A social neuroscientist responds to the controversial critique that the results of imaging studies are routinely overstated.

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172 Optical Illusions and the Illusion of Love

How do we fool thee? Let us count the ways--that illusions play with our hearts and minds

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173 Where Are Old Memories Stored in the Brain?

A new study suggests that the location of a recollection in the brain

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174 Why Don't Babies Talk like Adults?

Going from "goo-goo" to garrulous one step at a time.
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175 Voodoo Correlations: Have the Results of Some Brain Scanning Experiments Been Overstated?

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176 The Legal Brain: How Does the Brain Make Judgments about Crimes?

In our legal system, judges and juries have to assign responsibility for crimes and decide on appropriate punishments. A new imaging study reveals which area of the brain plays a key role in these cognitive processes.
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177 Sculpting the Impossible: Solid Renditions of Visual Illusions

Artists find mind-bending ways to bring visual illusions called impossible figures into three-dimensional reality.
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178 Inside the Savant Mind: Tips for Thinking from an Extraordinary Thinker

You may never recite calculations like Rain Man, but you can still learn to improve cognitive performance with advice from this interview with a savant.
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179 Serendipitous Science: From Noisy Eyeballs to Regulating Information Flow in the Brain

A neuroscientist reveals how telling people about his surprising dysfunction led to other discoveries about the brain.
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180 The Life of the Mind

Looking back on a year of Mind Matters articles
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181 Distorted Body Images: A Quick and Easy Way to Reduce Pain

As it turns out, size also matters when it comes to pain perception.
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182 eBay and the Brain: What Psychology Teaches Us about the Economic Downturn

A behavioral scientist explains how your innate optimism, greed (or gluttony), and self-ignorance can depress your financial and physical well-being—and how to commit yourself to change
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183 Blurring the Boundary Between Perception and Memory

Can you trust your lying eyes—or any of your other senses and memory? Not really
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184 The Amnesia Gene

Why some people are more likely to forget traumatic events
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185 Ghost Stories: Visits from the Deceased

After a loved one dies, most people see ghosts
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186 Fitness and the Brain: Can a Walk a Day Keep Alzheimer's Away?

A new study looks at the connection between exercise and memory loss
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187 Bird Brains: Are Parrots Smarter Than a Human Two-Year-Old?

That might be stretching things but, as an expert on animal cognition discusses, certain birds display startling abilities and intelligence
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188 Art as Visual Research: 12 Examples of Kinetic Illusions in Op Art

Art and neuroscience combine in creating fascinating examples of illusory motion
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189The Power of the Memory Molecule

Scientists show that it's possible to erase specific memories in the brain

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190Why Do We Forget Things?

The brain can store a vast number of memories, so why can't we find these memories when we need to? A new study provides insights into this question.

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191 Why Children Like to Share

People are programmed to avoid inequality

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192Fear, Death and Politics: What Your Mortality Has to Do with the Upcoming Election

A psychology professor explains how thoughts of death influence how we vote or make other decisions

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193Illusions: Motion from Brightness

How dynamic changes in brightness cause you to see movement where there isn't any

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194The Certainty Bias: A Potentially Dangerous Mental Flaw

A neurologist explains why you shouldn't believe in political candidates that sound too sure of themselves.

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195Hypnosis, Memory and the Brain

A new study points to specific areas of the brain affected by hypnosis. The technique could be a tool for exploring what happens in the brain when we suddenly forget.

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196Why Calories Taste Delicious: Eating and the Brain

Sugar is still pleasurable even when it isn't sweet—an important clue to the rise of obesity

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197Metaphors of the Mind: Why Loneliness Feels Cold and Sins Feel Dirty

A social psychologist explains how abstract concepts can create physical feelings

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[198Baby's Little Smiles: Building a Relationship with Mom](#)

How smiles—and pouts—are helping researchers probe the essence of the complex mother-infant bond.

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[199Eyes: A New Window on Mental Disorders](#)

Clues about autism, Williams syndrome and the social brain come from tracking eye movements

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[200Lottery Tickets and Credit Cards: The Dangers of an Irrational Brain](#)

Why do we splurge on games of chance and rack up credit bills? A neuroeconomist explains.

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[201Phantom Limb Cure: Retraining the Brain](#)

Correcting the distortions in the body "maps" stored in the brain that cause phantom limb pain could be a matter of changing how patients think.

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[202Borderline Personality Disorder: No Man Is an Island](#)

A new study provides an illuminating look into the brains of sufferers.

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[203Subconscious Decisions: Voting in Churches and Buying Designer Labels](#)

Marketing expert Jonah Berger discusses his research on how environmental cues subtly influence our ballots and purchases

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[204Illusions: The Eyes Have It](#)

Eye gaze is critically important to humans, as social primates. Maybe that's why illusions involving eyes are so compelling.

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[205Free Will versus the Programmed Brain](#)

If our actions are determined by prior events, then do we have a

choice about anything—or any responsibility for what we do?
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[206The Danger of Stress](#)

Getting stressed isn't just a state of mind. It can also seriously harm the body.
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[207Tone Deafness and Bad Singing May Not Go Hand in Hand](#)

When the singer is just awful, the problem may be more than faulty perception.
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[208Decision Making in the Brain: Eavesdropping on Neurons](#)

The interactions of neurons reveal that connections are critical in how we decide
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[209Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Thinking about Morality](#)

When we are in a pinch, surprising factors can affect our moral judgments
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[210Tough Choices: How Making Decisions Tires Your Brain](#)

The brain is like a muscle: when it gets depleted, it becomes less effective.
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[211 To Trust or Not to Trust: Ask Oxytocin](#)

When someone betrays us, how does the brain deal with it? A hormone associated with social attachment gives us clues.
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[212A Perspective on 3-D Visual Illusions](#)

What the Leaning Tower and related illusions reveal about how your brain reconstructs 3-D images.
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[213The Mirror Neuron Revolution: Explaining What Makes Humans Social](#)

Neuroscientist Marco Iacoboni discusses mirror neurons, autism and the potentially damaging effects of violent movies.
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214 Can a Robot, an Insect or God Be Aware?

Our intuitions about consciousness in other beings and objects reveal a lot about how we think

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215 Brain Flashes: Three Cognitive News Items You Might Have Missed

Becoming "stoopid" from Internet use, fMRI's dark side and holistic thinking all made mind news this week.

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216 Why the Brain Follows the Rules

Clues to understanding the human social brain come from a study of punishment's role in fairness.

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217 Of Two Minds When Making a Decision

We may make snap judgments, or mull things carefully. Why and when do we use the brain systems behind these decision-making styles?

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218 The Neuroscience of Illusion

How tricking the eye reveals the inner workings of the brain

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219 The Science of Irrationality: Why We Humans Behave So Strangely

MIT's Dan Ariely discusses his research in behavioral economics and explains how to deal with our brain's flawed decision-making process

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220 Do Infants See Colors Differently?

Infants, unlike adults, store color categories in the brain's right hemisphere. This new finding reveals the surprising power of language over perception.

May 14, 2008 | [9](#)

221 Mind Control by Cell Phone

Electromagnetic signals from cell phones can change your brainwaves and behavior. But don't break out the aluminum foil head shield just yet.

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222The Aging Brain: Is It Less Connected?

Age-related cognitive decline may be caused by a breakdown in connections between different brain systems.

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223Infant Language and the Imperfect Human Mind

Gary Marcus discusses babies, computers and his new book

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224The Mirror Cure for Phantom Pain

Phantom limbs (an often painful sensation that an amputated limb is still part of the body) affect approximately 40 to 80 percent of all amputees. Lorimer Moseley, a researcher at Oxford, looks at a recent study that used mirrors to erase this phantom pain.

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For more on how modern neuroscience applies specifically to putting processes, visit the [PuttingZone Science section for Neuroscience](#).

