

Different Memory Systems are Not Different Memory Kinds

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Different types of memory are localized to distinct brain regions and exhibit diverse learning curves, thereby constituting different memory systems. Several philosophers have argued that the idea of different memory systems should lead us to reject memory as a unified phenomenon. This has been reflected in the central distinction between memory systems, dividing memory to explicit and implicit kinds. In my talk, I will argue that the criteria offered to classify memory systems into distinct kinds do not entail that there is no general kind of memory. Appealing to stored information is not exclusive to declarative systems and is required to describe phenomena associated with non-declarative systems as well. Moreover, in the context of memory systems, behavioral flexibility can be appropriately ascribed to motor memory. I will show that the fact there are different memory systems should not result in rejecting memory as a unified category.