

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Each of us has a feeling that we perceive the world in a way that reflects all the details. It seems to us that any significant change in our environment would not go unnoticed. Already famous experiment with a gorilla strolling around the pitch, with a basketball game going on, forces us to verify previous assumptions. In this experiment, while the participants were asked to carefully watch the ball, a surprisingly small number of people was able to see something as unexpected as the big black gorilla waving to the audience.

The effect, acquired through introducing a distraction, which causes a change in a scene to go unnoticed, is called the change blindness phenomenon. This phenomenon caused discussion about whether in fact all of the details from the environment are consciously perceived by us. Currently, there are two sides in this debate, supporters of the richness of mental representation and supporters of the hypothesis that this richness is only an illusion.

The main objective of the project is to verify the assumptions underlying this dispute, namely we are trying to assess whether attention changes the elements of the memorised scene. The research questions we ask are, among others: Is attention associated with better realising what is in our memory? Or does it enhance the memorised details? We try to answer these, and other questions using the research tools, which were developed in the field of research regarding the relationship between attention and working memory, and research concentrated on the structure of consciousness.