



Vividness, Consciousness, and Mental Imagery: Making the Missing Links across Disciplines and Methods

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Message from the Guest Editor

Mental images are either treated as conscious by definition, or as empirical operations implicit to completing some type of task, but there is no direct determination of whether it is conscious or not.

The vividness of mental images is a potentially helpful construct, as it may correspond to consciousness or aspects of the consciousness of images. It seems that a general implicit assumption is that vivid images are conscious, and it is possible that the least vivid images are effectively unconscious or that they become such once a threshold is reached. Thus it still unclear whether the vividness dimension may in fact be a kind of “disguised correlate of consciousness” or if instead it might be a supramodal metacognitive dimension not necessarily associated with imagery.

Some authors do not mention imagery or consciousness at all when using the term vividness, but associate it to various forms of memory or to aliased processes not literally called imagery but, for example, imagining or visualizations or simulations.





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