Autobiographical memory

- Memory for our life experience
- A small proportion of people seem to have a qualitatively superior form
- Questions:
  - What type of memory is superior?
  - Are their memories accurate?
  - Are the details complete?
  - What’s the mechanism?

Caudate nucleus

- Involved in skill learning and OCD
  - Both involve repetitive behavior
  - Mental and physical
- 7-8 standard deviations larger in SAM subjects

False memory

- List 1
  - Door
  - Glass
  - Pane
  - Shade
  - Ledge
  - Sill
  - House
  - Open
  - Curtain
  - Frame
  - View
  - Breeze
  - Sash
  - Screen
  - Shutter

- List 2
  - Nose
  - Breathe
  - Sniff
  - Aroma
  - Hear
  - See
  - Nostri
  - Whiff
  - Scents
  - Raek
  - Stench
  - Fragrance
  - Perfume

- List 3
  - Sour
  - Candy
  - Sugar
  - Bitter
  - Good
  - Taste
  - Tooth
  - Nice
  - Honey
  - Chocolate
  - Cake
  - Tart
  - Pie

DRM procedure

- (Deese, 1959; Roediger & McDermott, 1995)
- Replacement for Figure 8.16:
- False recall of theme word (critical lure) = 0.55

- The theme helps us recall target words
  - More hits with a theme than without
- But the theme word intrudes
  - High rate of false alarms
  - Semantic memory intruding on episodic memory
Recognition vs. recall

- Often we can recognize something that we can’t recall
  - Recognition can be more sensitive than recall
- But recognition accuracy depends on the distractors
  - The more similar they are to the target, the more errors people make picking the target

Eyewitness memory

- Involves a recognition task
  - Picking someone from a photo array, or lineup
- The target may or may not be present
  - The police don’t know, neither does the witness

The case of Jennifer Thompson

- Questions:
  - How well did Thompson’s confidence in her memory predict its accuracy?
  - What factors probably contributed to Thompson’s error?