

Investigating perception and cognition through the body

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Throughout much of contemporary Psychology, and the broader, inter-disciplinary field of Cognitive Science, the idea is generally accepted that the mind, and the brain, are similar in function to a digital computer. In recent years, however, this view has come under increasing criticism and some of its implications are now being questioned. In particular, the role of the body, which is typically just conceived of as an input and output device, is seen as more central than it once was. Much of my research concerns this issue, and how the processes of thinking and perceiving interact with the body. The principal research project I will present concerns the use of a new piece of technology, the Enactive Torch, which is a device intended to enable the more in-depth investigation of the relationship between action, perception and bodily movement.