



WHO ARE YOU, MOM?

A neurological interpretation of Capgras delusion

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Introduction to Cognitive Science

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HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR MOTHER IS YOUR MOTHER?

- She looks like your mother.
- You meet her at home.
- She acts like your mother.
- **You feel like she is your mother.**

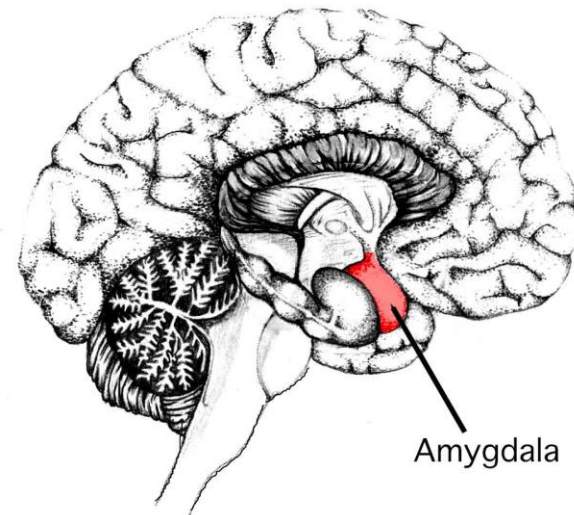


CAPGRAS SYNDROME / DELUSION

- „She looks like my mom, but it is not her.“
- „This house looks just like mine but it is not it.“
- „The guy in the mirror looks just like I, but he is not me.“
- Why?



CAPGRAS SYNDROME / DELUSION



V. S. Ramachandran

Hypothesis: the link between the „face region“ and the emotional center of the brain is cut: therefore mother is not recognized (no feeling is felt).



WHAT IS UNCLEAR:

- The condition sometimes heals with time.
- Can sometimes be successfully treated by anti
- Relative recognized by voice (on the phone). Sight + voice: not recognized!
- Sometimes the relatives are recognized.
- Why is the delusion limited to only some known people?
- They can be „tricked“ to recognize the unrecognized objects / people.
- How do they cope cognitively?
- How do they view it in retrospect (after the condition is healed)?



WHAT IS UNCLEAR:

"Mrs. D, a 74-year-old married housewife, recently discharged from a local hospital after her first psychiatric admission, presented to our facility for a second opinion. At the time of her admission earlier in the year, she had received the diagnosis of atypical psychosis because of her belief that her husband had been replaced by another unrelated man. She refused to sleep with the impostor, locked her bedroom and door at night, asked her son for a gun, and finally fought with the police when attempts were made to hospitalise her. At times she believed her husband was her long deceased father. She easily recognised other family members and would misidentify her husband only."



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



SOURCES AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Patel, R. 2011. *Case of Capgras Syndrome*. Public lecture, East Tennessee State University.
- Ramachandran, V. S. 2011. *The Tell-Tale Brain*. William Heinemann : London, 2011.

Recommended:

- A lecture on Capgras syndrome:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StXouCWsvU8>
- A case of a Capgras Syndrome patient:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqBGzkz1oDU>
- Ramachandran's lecture on Capgras Syndrome:
<http://www.bodyinmind.org/ramachandran-and-phantom-limb-pain/>

