Can we remember the source of information without remembering the information itself?

Project supervisors

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Project 1

This project will tackle the question of whether there can be source memory in the absence of item memory. In a recent study, Malejka and Bröder (2016) showed that source memory for unrecognized items is most likely an artefact of implicit feedback. When the source question follows all OLD responses and NEW responses to old items (*conditional test*; Starns et al., 2008), participants know when a NEW response is incorrect and can make a correct source judgment. Malejka and Bröder (2016) asked the source question after every item response and thus no feedback was provided (*unconditional test*). Although the apparent effect of source memory for unrecognized items disappeared, it remains debatable whether participants in the latter task are motivated enough to provide source judgments to items they think are new. Only when new items have a source will responses to all questions actually be meaningful. In a new study, we will design new items that have a source, which should increase participants' motivation to provide source judgments after responding NEW.

Malejka, S., & Bröder, A. (2016). No source memory for unrecognized items when implicit feedback is avoided. *Memory & Cognition, 44,* 63–72.

Starns, J. J., Hicks, J. L., Brown, N. L., & Martin, B. A. (2008). Source memory for unrecognized items: Predictions from multivariate signal detection theory. *Memory & Cognition*, *36*, 1–8.

Project 2

This project will address the question of whether there can be source memory in the absence of item memory. In a recent study, Chen, Gomes, and Brainerd (in press) showed that people can apparently remember the list an item appeared in without remembering that they have seen the item before. In the study phase, items studied on two different lists (e.g., List 1: apple, orange, banana, horse; List 2: dog, cat, mouse, strawberry) were either consistent with the list's taxonomic category (e.g., apple in a list of fruits) or inconsistent (e.g., horse in a list of fruits). In the test phase, source memory for the list was better but item memory was worse when the tested item's category was consistent with other words from the list. However, participants in Chen et al.'s (in press) experiments were well aware of the different categories, such that classifying an item they mistakenly think is new as originating from the list that included many words from that category is simply a rational response bias. In a new study, we will test whether the finding stands or falls with participants' response bias by using other source details than taxonomic categories.

Chen, X. R., Gomes, C. F. A., & Brainerd, C. J. (in press). Explaining recollection without remembering. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*.