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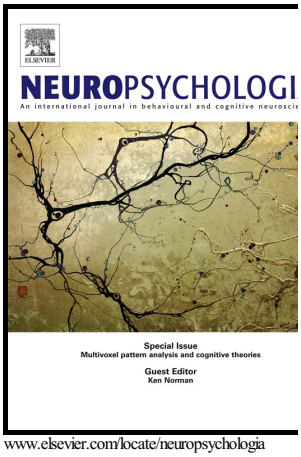
Getting a cue before getting a clue: Event-related potentials to inference in visual narrative comprehension

Neil Cohn, Marta Kutas



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Getting a cue before getting a clue:

Event-related potentials to inference in visual narrative comprehension

Neil Cohn and Marta Kutas

Department of Cognitive Science, University of California, San Diego. La Jolla, CA

Short title: Inference in visual narratives

Corresponding author:

Neil Cohn

Department of Cognitive Science

University of California, San Diego

9500 Gilman Dr. Dept. 0526

La Jolla, CA 92093-0526

Phone: (858) 822-0736

Fax: (858) 822-5097

Email: neilcohn@visuallanguagelab.com

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Abstract

Inference has long been emphasized in the comprehension of verbal and visual narratives. Here, we measured event-related brain potentials to visual sequences designed to elicit inferential processing. In **Impoverished** sequences, an expressionless "onlooker" watches an undepicted event (e.g., person throws a ball for a dog, then watches the dog chase it) just prior to a surprising finale (e.g., someone else returns the ball), which should lead to an inference (i.e., the different person retrieved the ball). **Implied** sequences alter this narrative structure by adding visual cues to the critical panel such as a surprised facial expression to the onlooker implying they saw an unexpected, albeit undepicted, event. In contrast, **Expected** sequences show a

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