

# Activity-Silent Short-Term Memory for Language Processing

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**Submitter** Hartmut Fitz

**Affiliation** Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen, the Netherlands

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

**Presentation Type** Either Poster or Oral Presentation

**Presentation Abstract Summary** Integrating meaning over time requires memory ranging from milliseconds (words) to seconds (sentences) and minutes (discourse). How do brain circuits support maintenance across these time-scales? Here we investigate the nature of short-term memory in a neurobiologically motivated model of sentence comprehension.

Sparsely connected networks of spiking neurons were exposed to input sentences and their syntactic alternations. The task was to incrementally map these word sequences onto semantic roles (who did what to whom?). To probe memory, we systematically manipulated network connectivity, properties of neuronal adaptation, and the shape of synaptic currents. Near optimal performance was observed when time constants were tuned to the temporal characteristics of the comprehension task. Recurrent connectivity only played a limited role in maintaining information over time.

Results suggest that memory for language may be provided by activity-silent dynamic processes rather than persistent spiking activity as in standard models of short-term memory.

**Paper Upload (PDF)** [CCN\\_MemoryForLanguage.pdf](#)

## Co-author Information

\* Presenting Author

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	E-mail
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Hartmut *	Fitz *	Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen, the Netherlands	hartmut.fitz@mpi.nl
Dick	van den Broek	Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen, the Netherlands	dick.vandenBroek@mpi.nl
Marvin	Uhlmann	Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen, the Netherlands	marvin.uhlmann@mpi.nl
Renato	Duarte	Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine, Forschungszentrum Juelich, Germany	rcfduarte@gmail.com
Peter	Hagoort	Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen, the Netherlands	peter.hagoort@mpi.nl
Karl-Magnus	Petersson	Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen, the Netherlands	karl-magnus.petersson@mpi.nl

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