

*Collège de France, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2011  
Stanislas Dehaene Seminar*



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

# The construction of an experience of our own body



Henrik Ehrsson

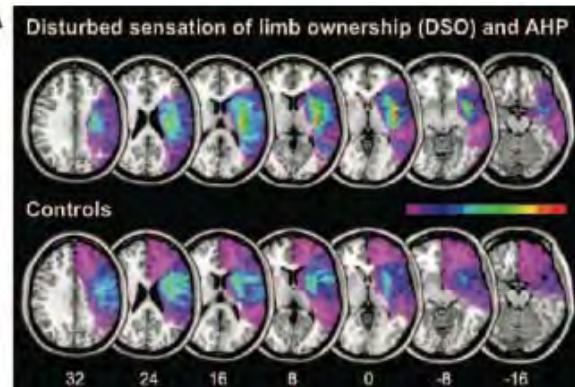
Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet  
Stockholm, Sweden

# Body ownership

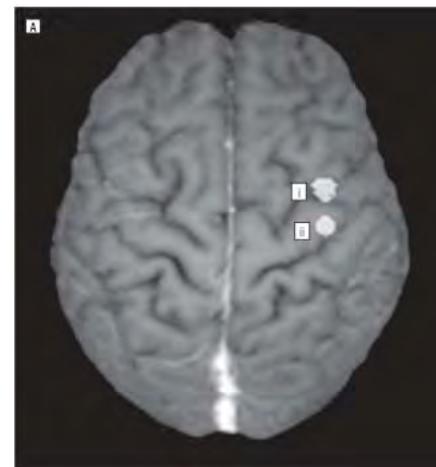


Which is my hand?

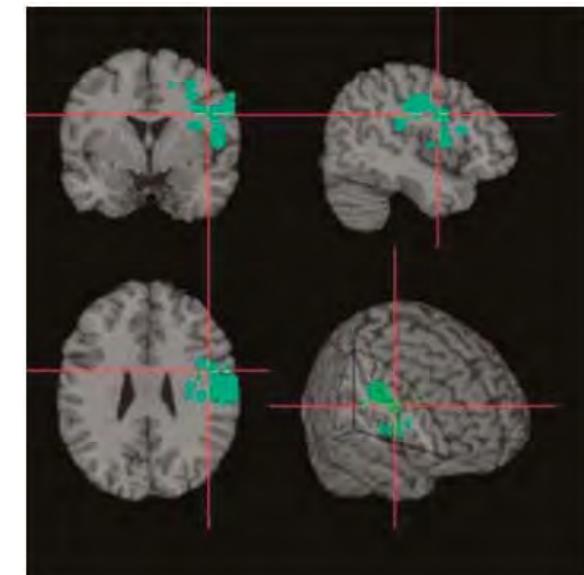
# Asomatognosia and Somatoparaphrenia



Baier and Karnath (2008)  
*Stroke*



Arzy et al. (2006)  
*Arch Neurol*



Berti et al. (2005) *Science*

# Body ownership as a 'multisensory' problem



Which is my hand?

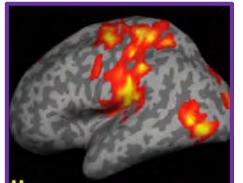
# Outline



1. Body ownership as a multisensory problem



2. Behavioural evidence from psychology



3. Multisensory responses in premotor and intraparietal areas: neurophysiology & imaging



4. Imaging illusions of limb ownership

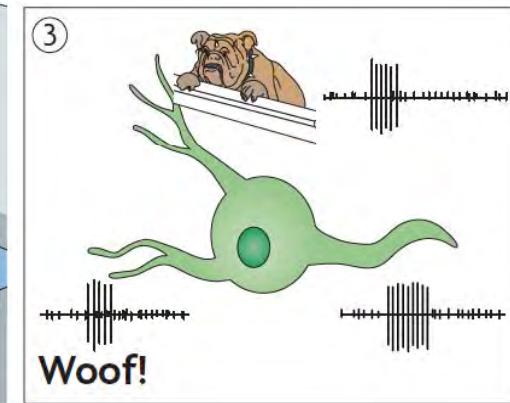
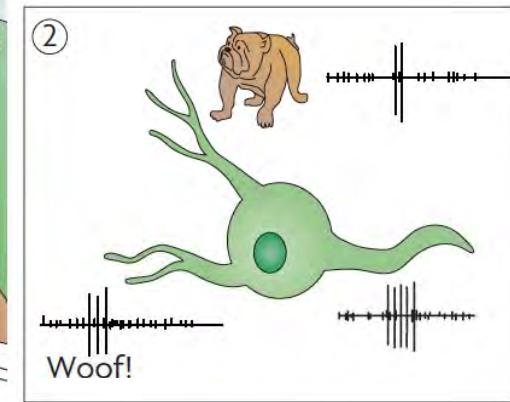
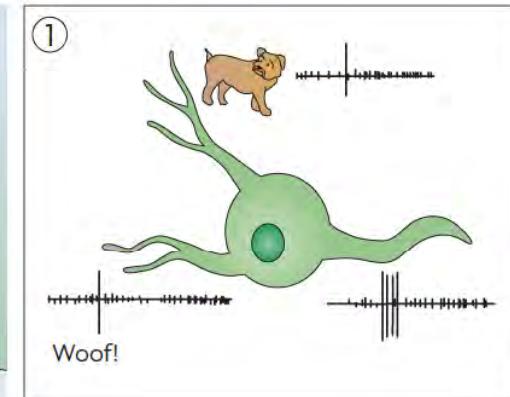
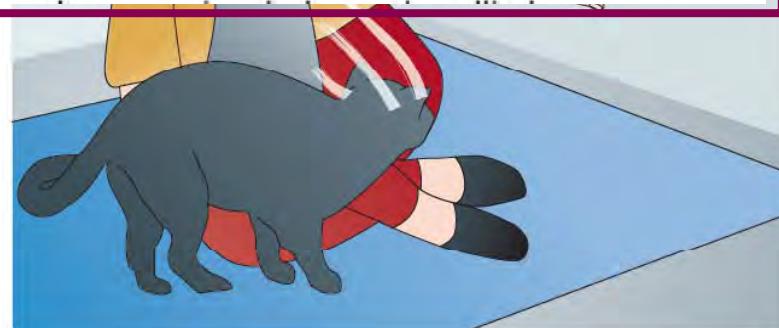
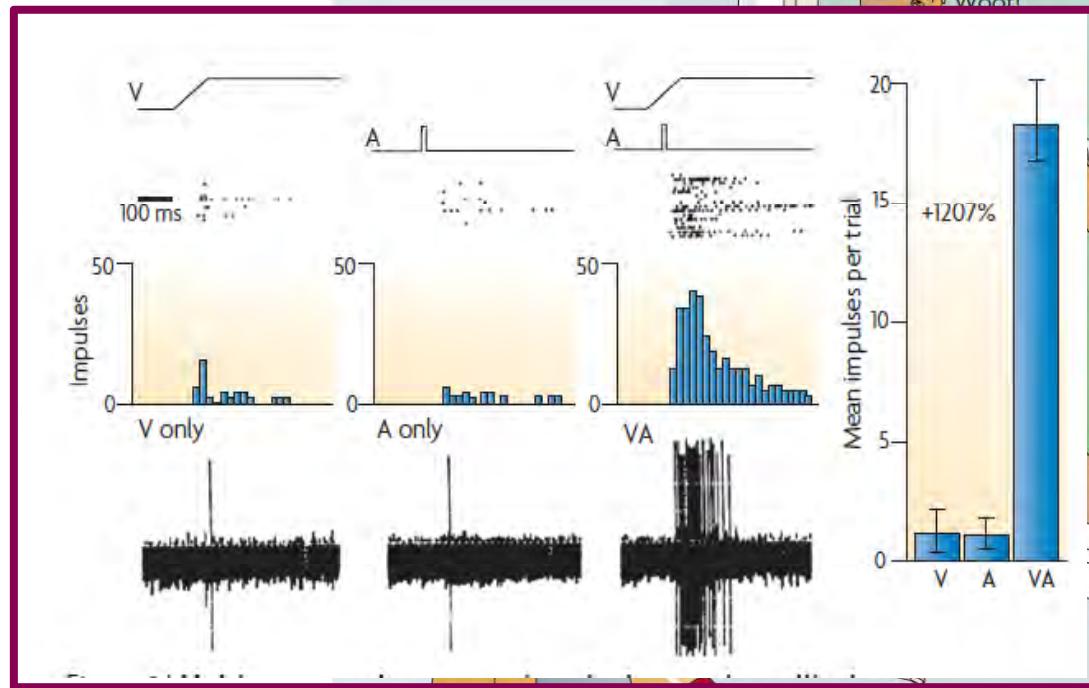


5. Behavioural & imaging studies of full-body ownership



6. Epilogue: applications to advanced prosthetics

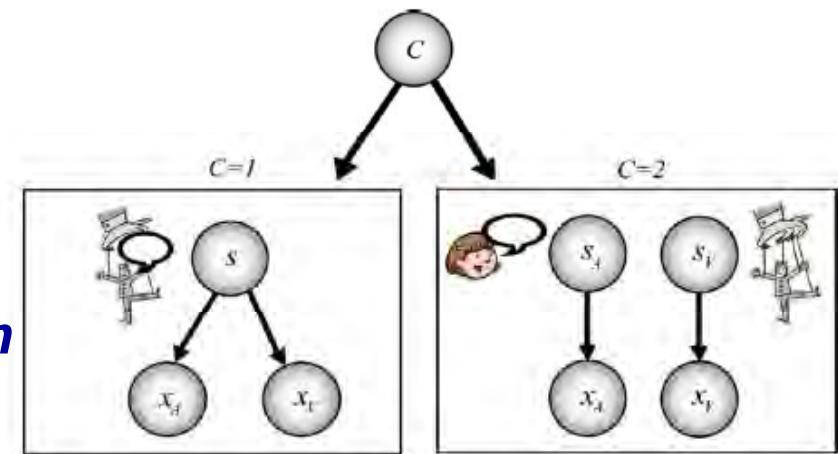
# 1. Key principles of multisensory integration



Stein and Stanford (2008) Nat Rev Neuroscience

# Key principles of multisensory integration

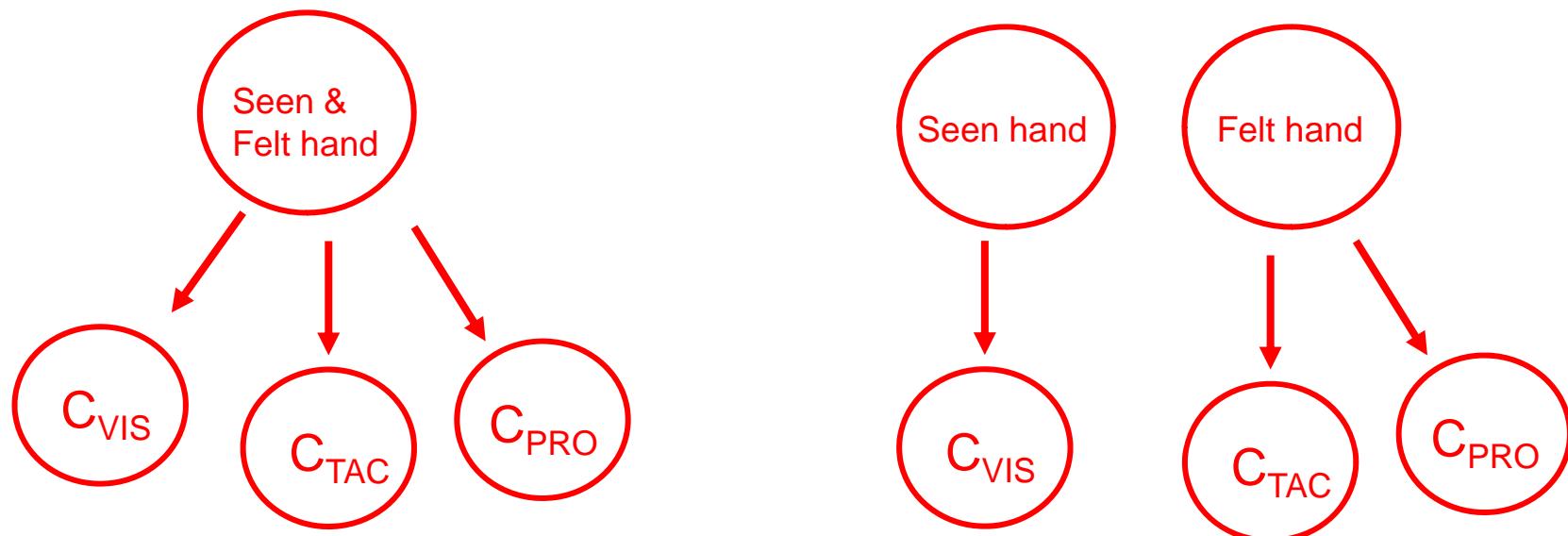
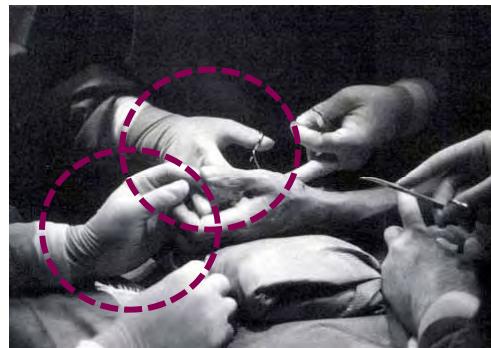
- Temporal congruity principle.
- Spatial congruity principle.
- Principle of inverse effectiveness.
- **Multisensory fusion problem.**
- **Multisensory assignment problem (causal interference problem)**



Multisensory assignment problem  
From Körding et al. (2007)

Holmes and Spence (2005)  
Current Biology

# Body ownership as a multisensory assignment problem

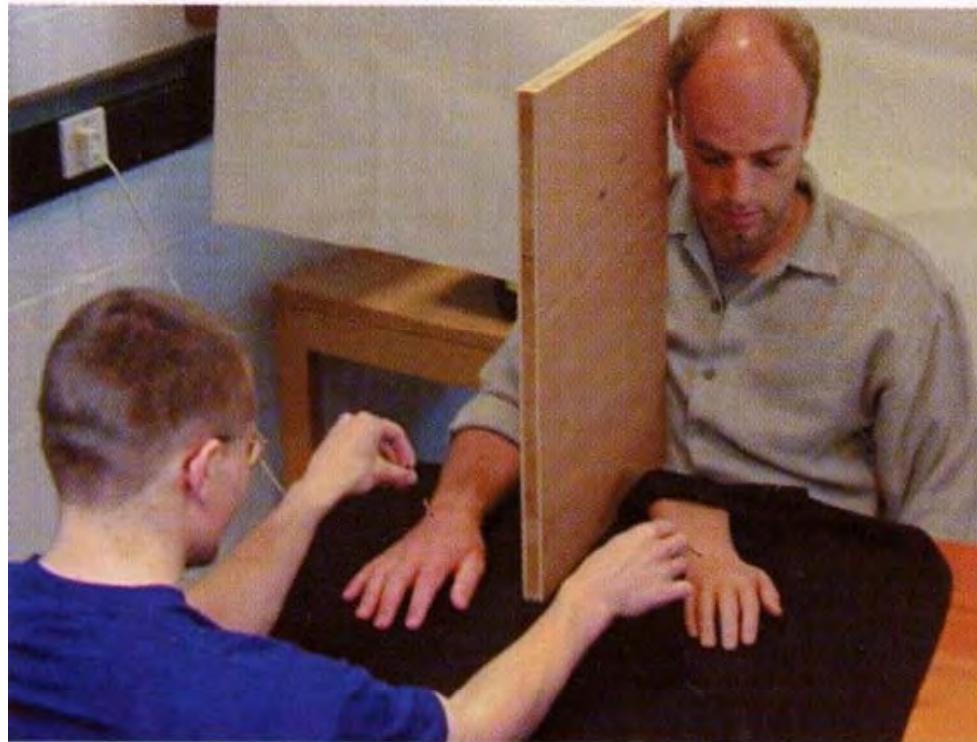




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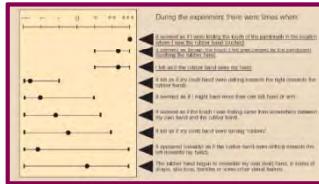
## 2. Behavioral evidence from experimental psychology

# Rubber hand illusion

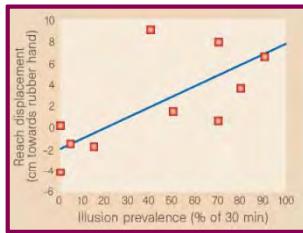


Botvinick and Cohen (1998) *Nature* 391: 756

# Measures of the illusion



- Questionnaire with visual analogue scales.  
(Botvinick and Cohen 1998)



- Hand perceived closer to the location of the rubber hand (proprioceptive drift): pointing error when asked to point to one's hand (e.g Taskiris and Haggard 2005; Ehrsson et al. 2005)



- Emotional responses when the hand is 'threatened' or 'hurt' (e.g Armel & Ramachandran 2003; Ehrsson et al. 2009)

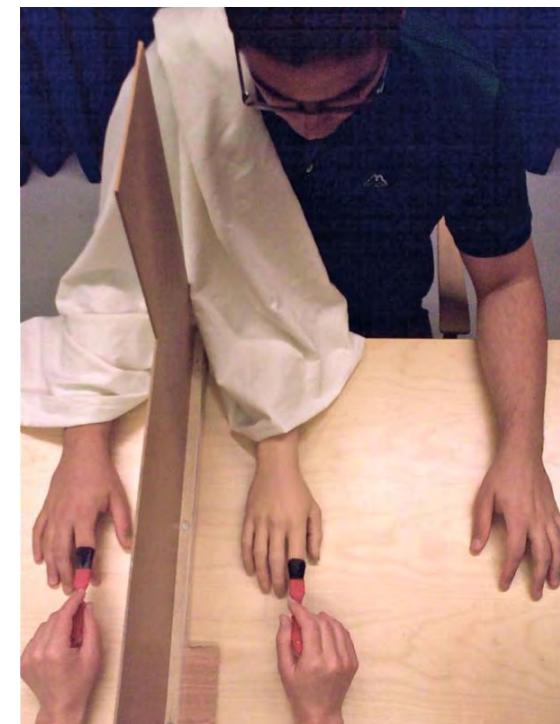


- Visual capture of tactile localization (cross modal congruity task) (Pavani et al 2001; Zopf et al. 2009)

# Behavioural evidence that the illusion depends on integration of visual, tactile and proprioceptive information in hand-centered reference frame

## Temporal congruency principle:

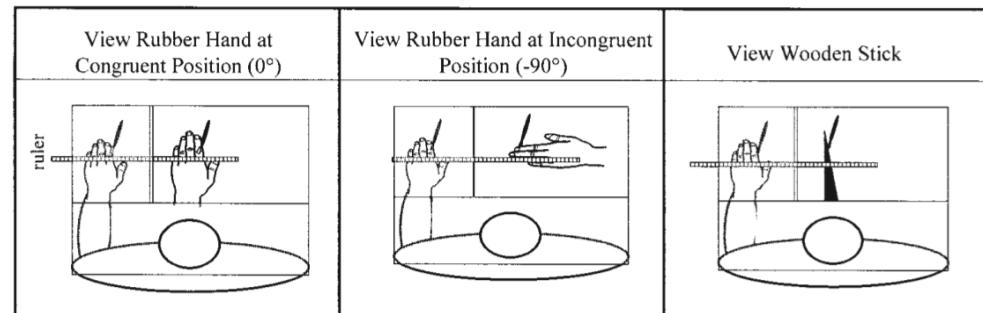
- The brushstrokes applied to the two hands must be synchronous (*temporal congruency vision-touch*) (Botvinick & Cohen 1998; Armel & Ramachandran 2003; Ehrsson et al. 2004; Tsakiris and Haggard 2005)
- Longer temporal delays break the illusion (>300 ms) (*temporal congruency vision-touch*) (Shimada et al. 2009)



# Behavioural evidence that the illusion depends on integration of visual, tactile and proprioceptive information in hand-centered reference frame

## Spatial congruency principle:

- The brushstrokes must be applied to corresponding parts of the two hands (*spatial congruency vision-touch*) (e.g. Ehrsson et al. 2009)
- The rubber hand must be anatomically aligned with the hidden real hand. (*spatial congruency vision-proprioception*) (Pavani et al. 2001; Ehrsson et al. 2004; Tsakiris et al. 2005)

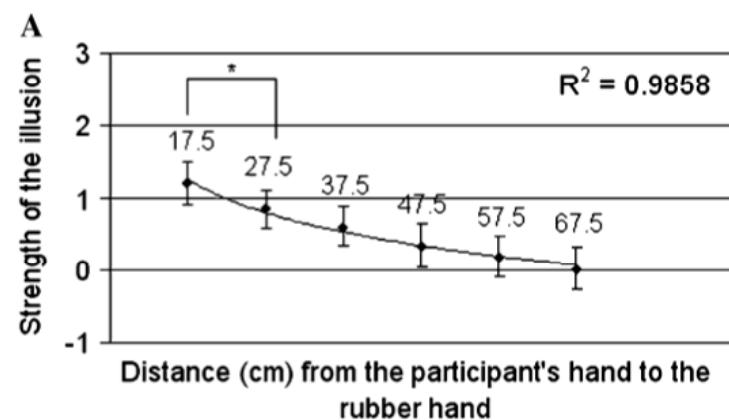
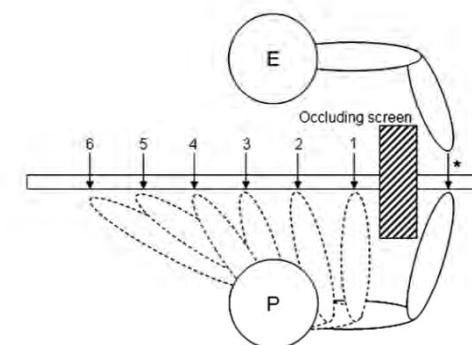


Tsakiris et al. (2005)

# Behavioural evidence that the illusion depends on integration of visual, tactile and proprioceptive information in hand-centered reference frame

## Hand-centered reference frames:

- The rubber hand is placed within reaching distance (30 cm from the real hand) (Llyod 2007).
- The direction of the brushstrokes must congruent in hand-centered reference frames, and not in allocentric external coordinates (Constantini and Haggard 2007)



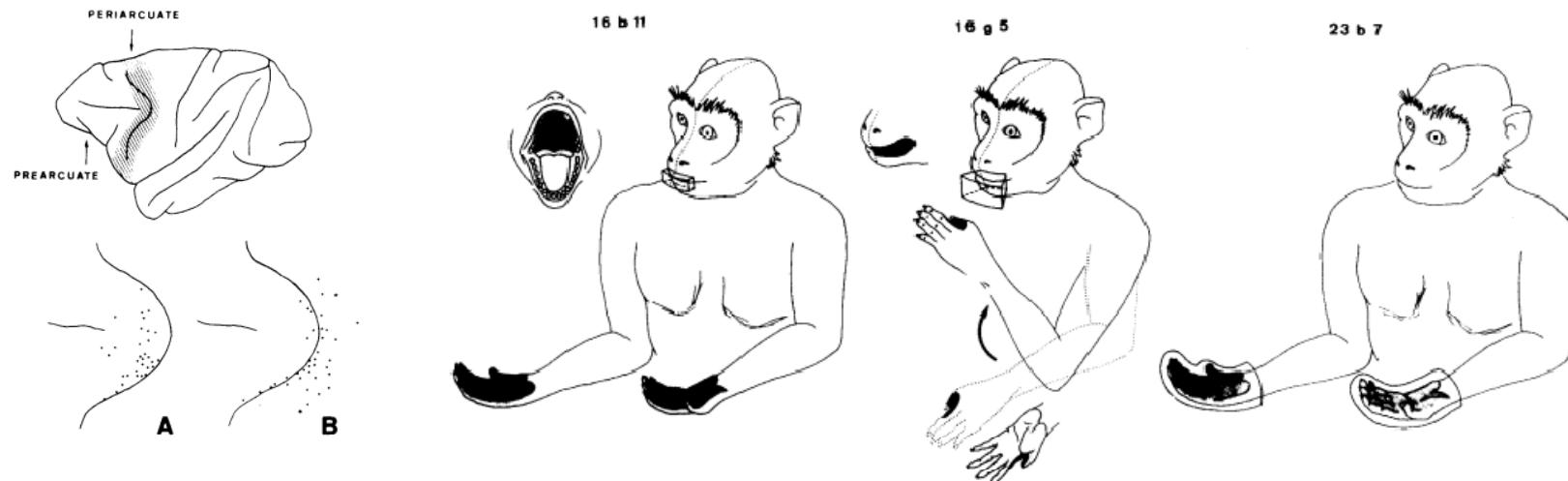
Lloyd (2008)



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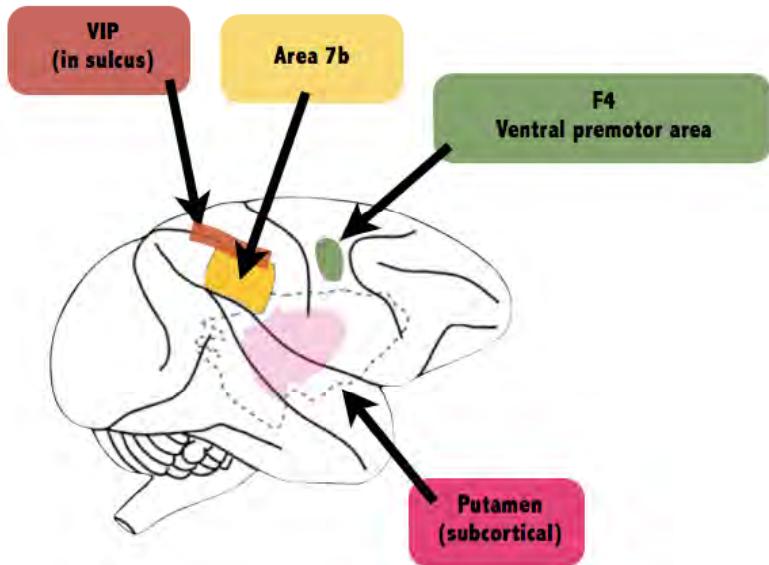
### 3. Neurophysiology: multisensory integration in premotor and intraparietal cortex

# Multisensory neurons in premotor cortex and peri-personal space

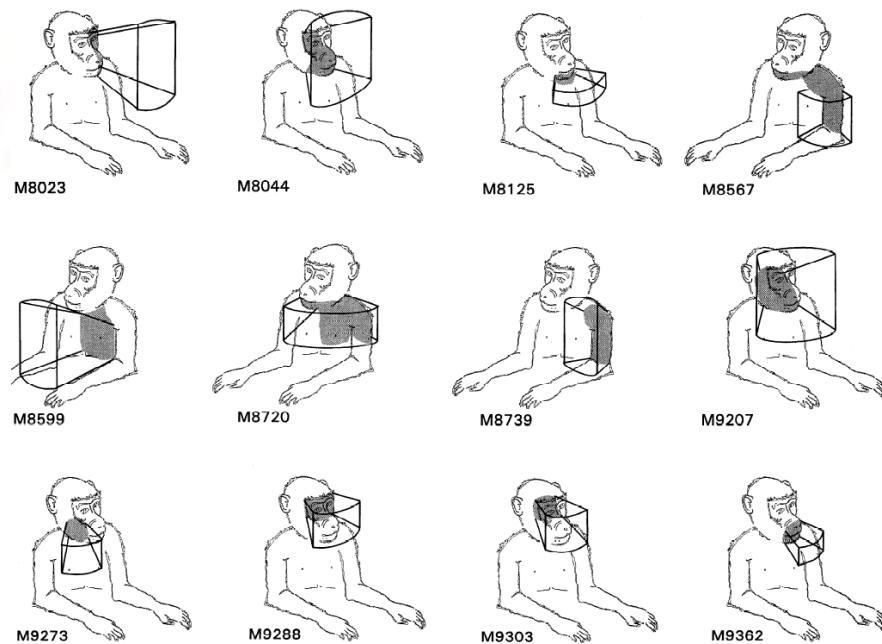


From Rizzolatti et al. (1981) Exp. Brain Res.

# Multisensory neurons and peri-personal space

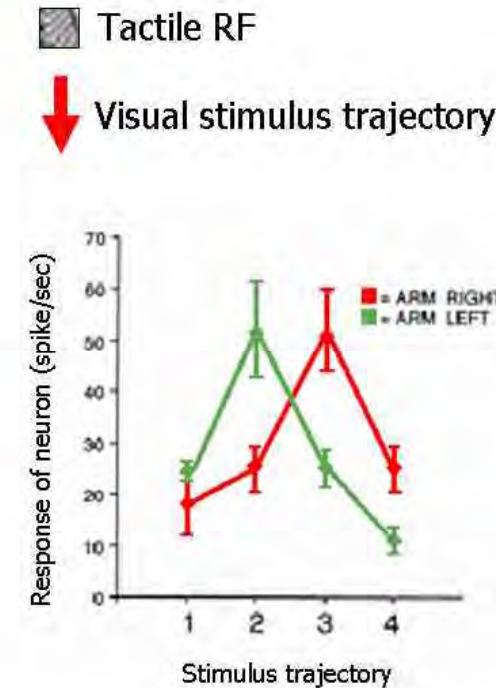
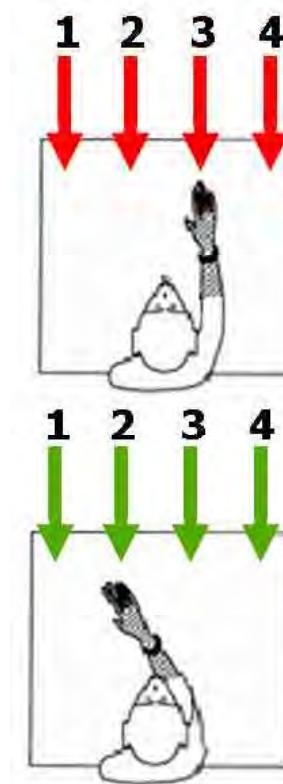
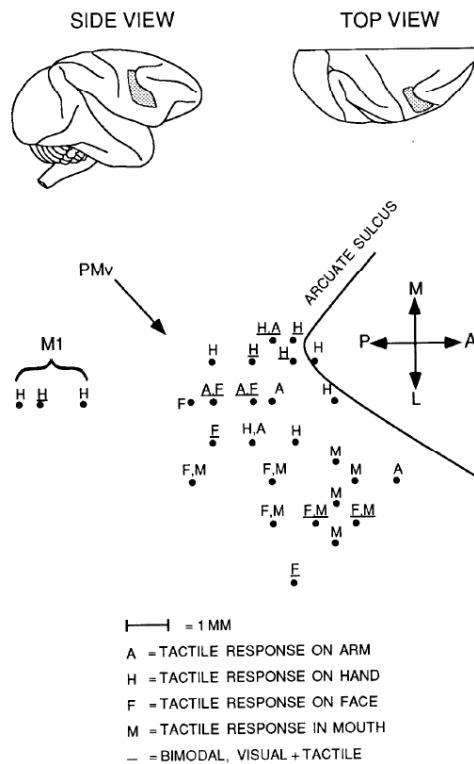


Hyvärinen & Poranen 1974  
 Rizzolatti et al. 1981  
 Graziano & Gross 1993, 1997  
 Duhamel et al. 1998



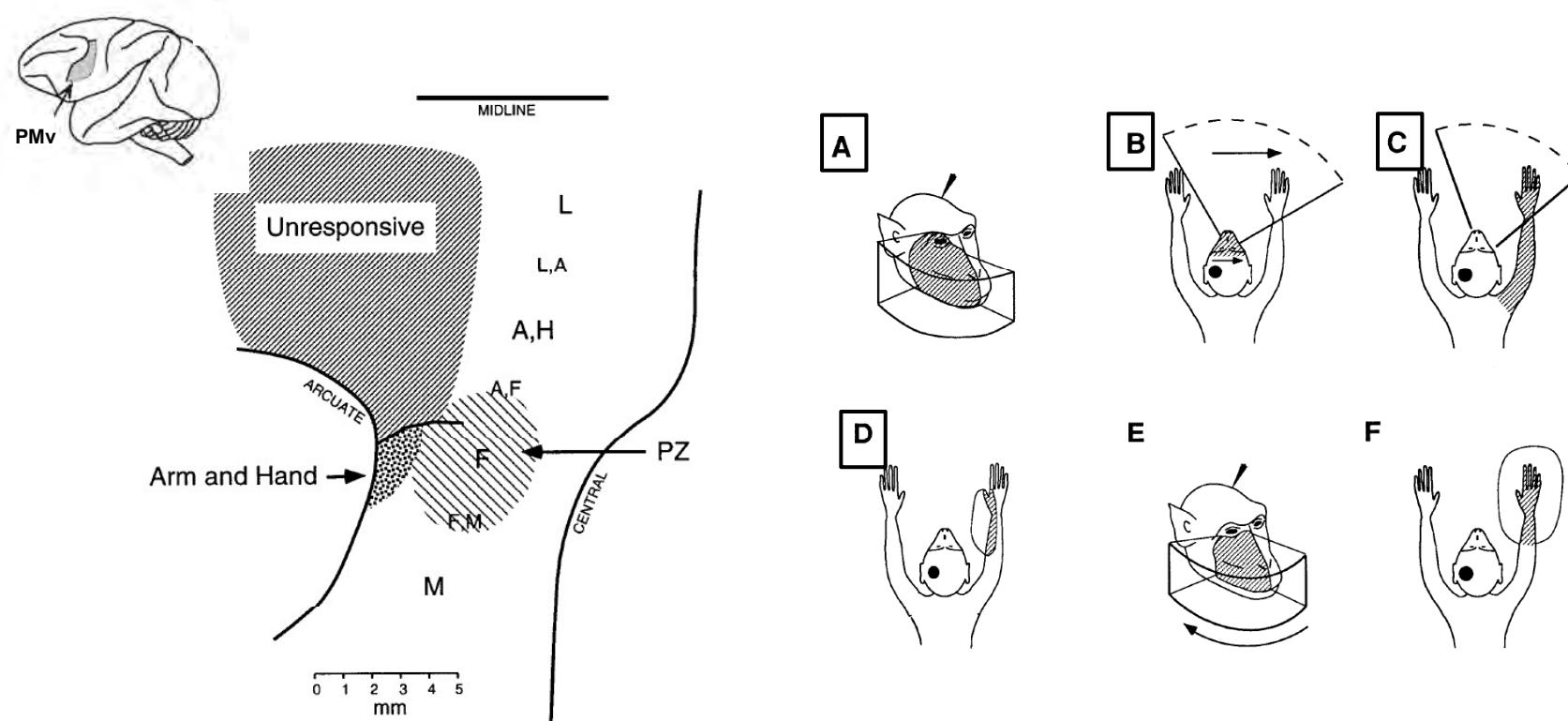
Fogassi et al. (1996) J. Neurophysiol.

# Multisensory neurons and body-part-centered coordinates



From Graziano et al. (1997, 1999)

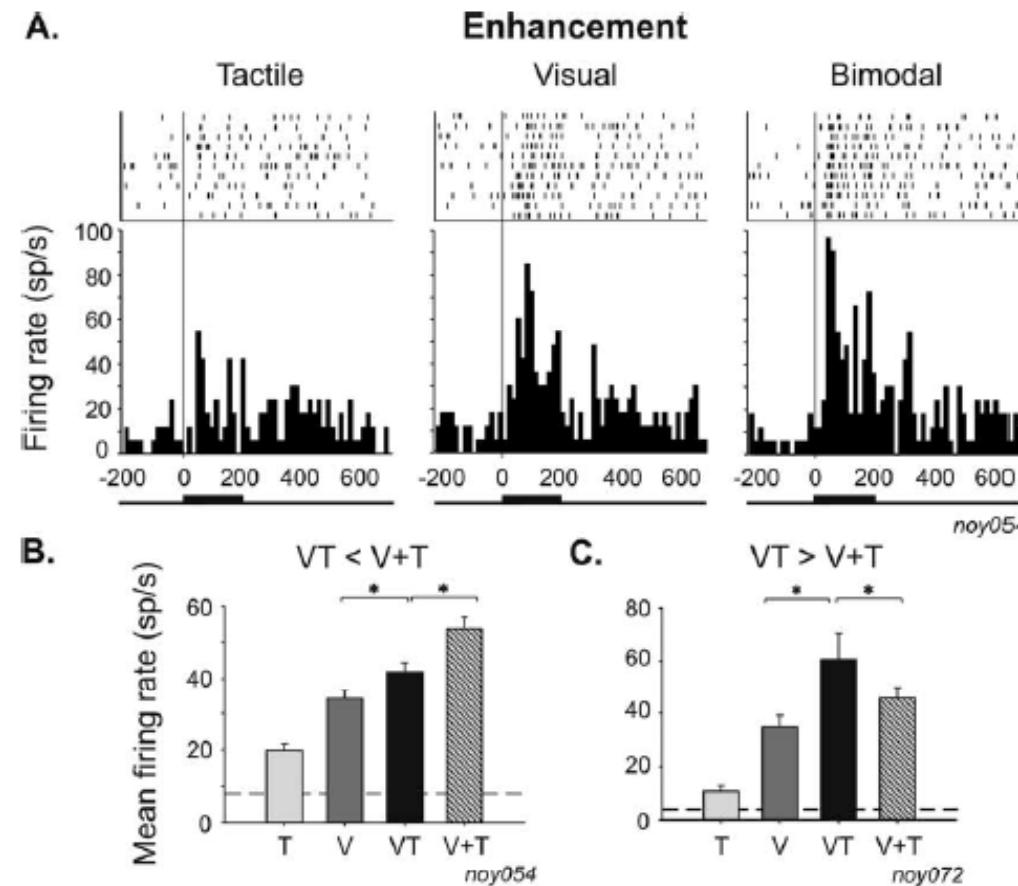
# Multisensory responses in premotor cortex in anesthetized monkeys



Graziano et al. (2000) Exp. Brain Res.

Graziano et al. (2007) J. Neurophysiol.

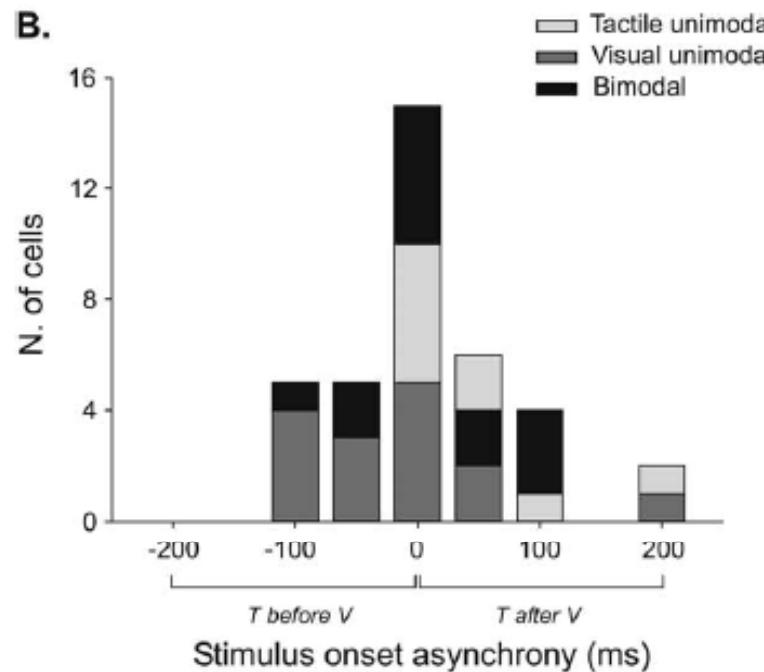
# Multisensory integration in ventral intraparietal area: super-additivity



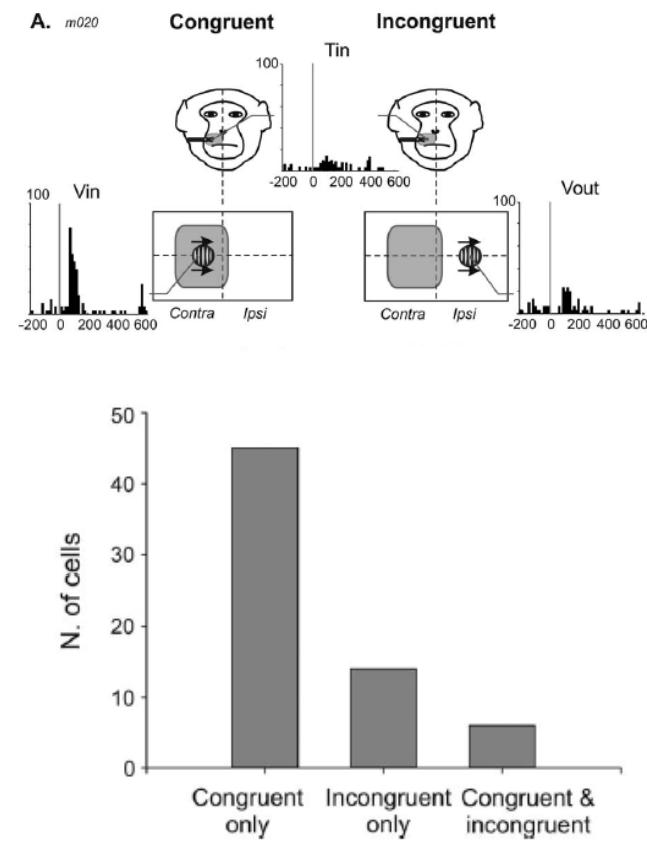
Avillac et al (2007) Nature Neuroscience

# Multisensory integration in ventral intraparietal area: spatial and temporal congruency effects

## Temporal congruity

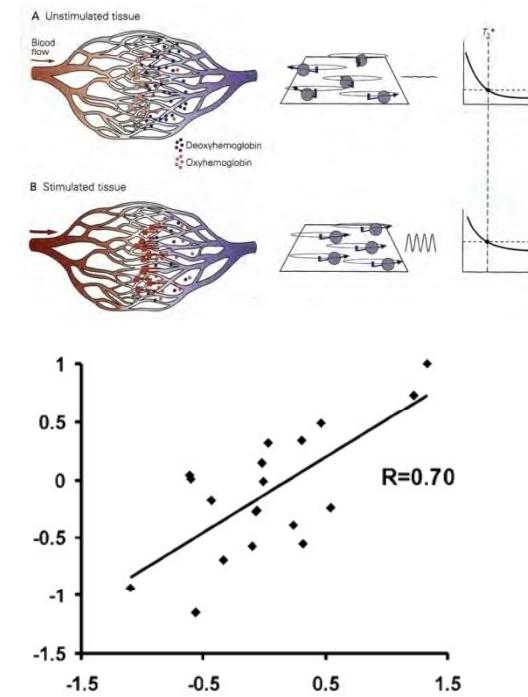
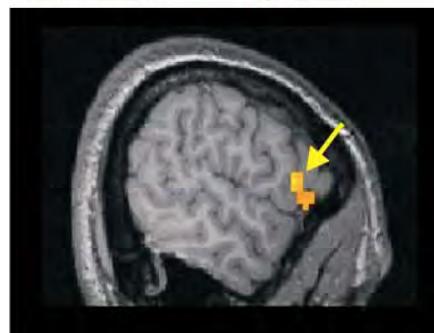


## Spatial congruity



Avillac et al (2007) Nature Neuroscience

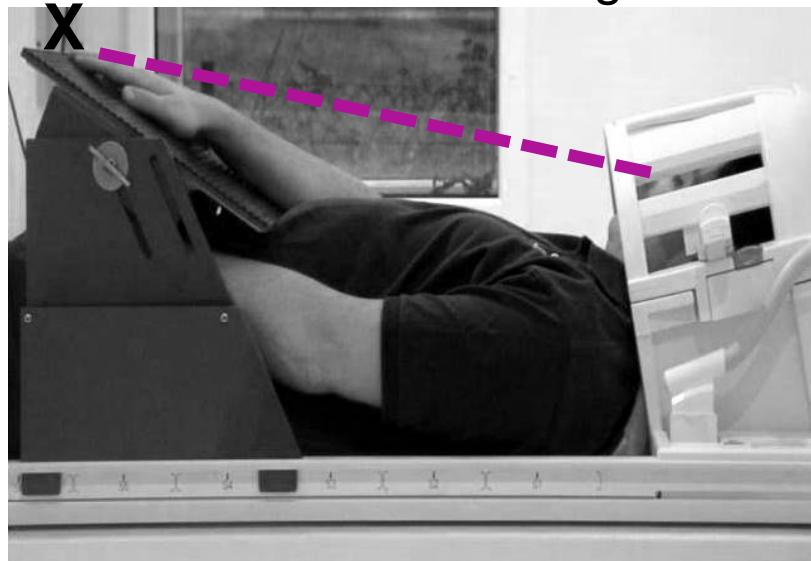
# Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)



- Blood-oxygen-dependent signal (BOLD)

# Human premotor and intraparietal cortices performs multisensory integration

Direct view of the right hand:



Tactile stimulation

		Absent	Present
Visual stimulation	Absent	R	T
	Present	V	VT

From participant's perspective



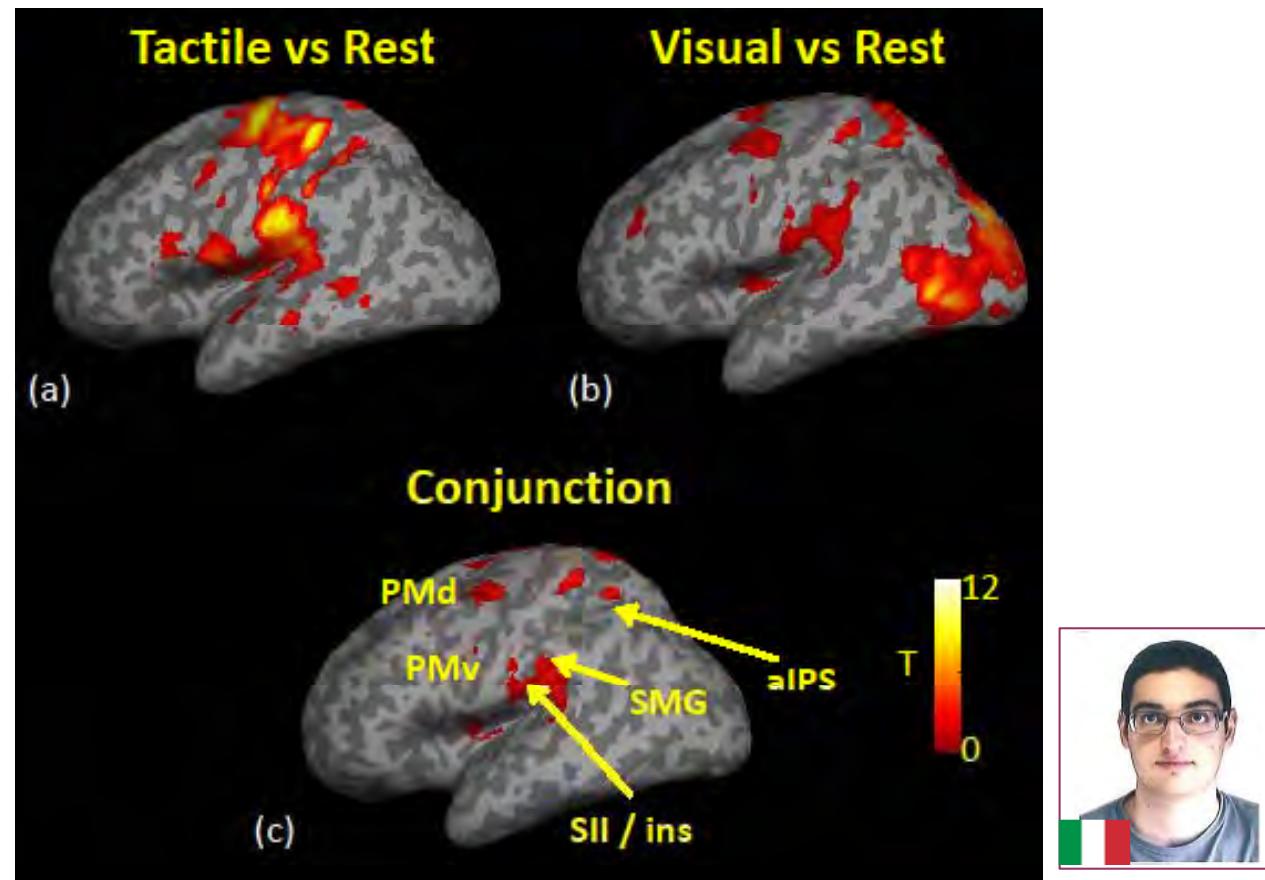
Tactile stimulation



Visual stimulation

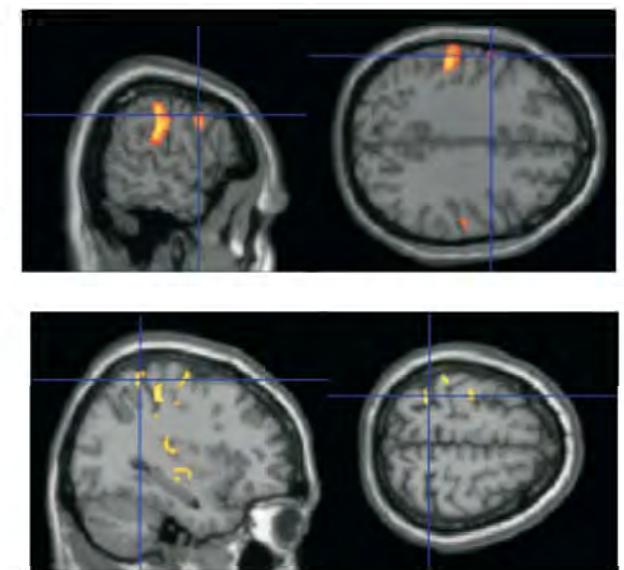
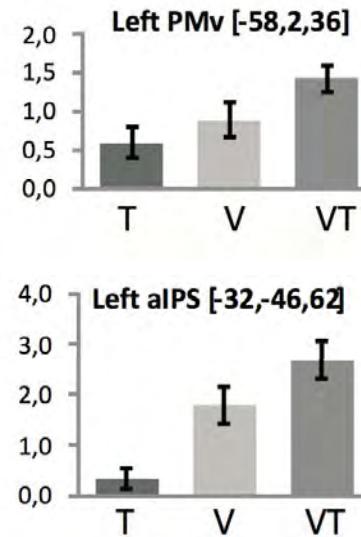
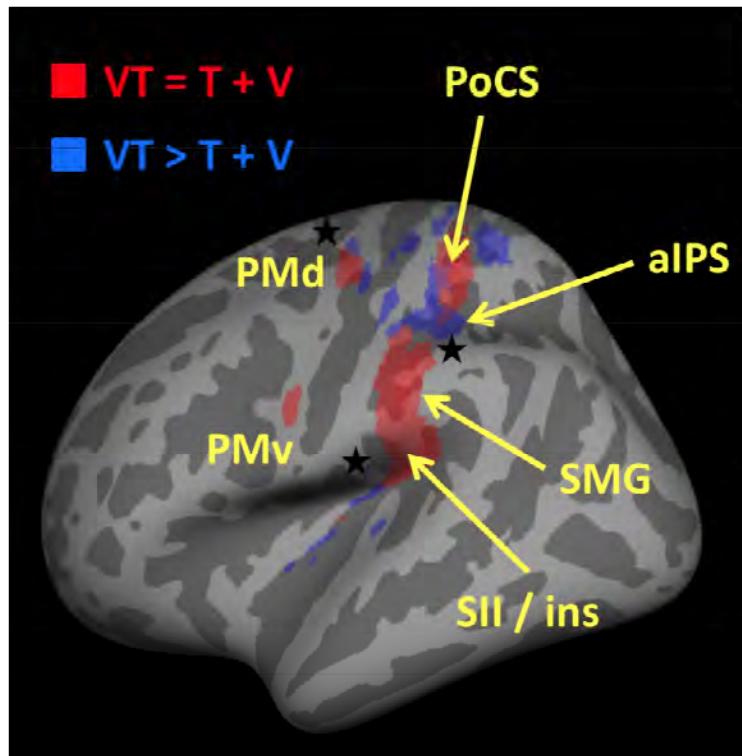


# Human premotor and intraparietal cortices performs multisensory integration



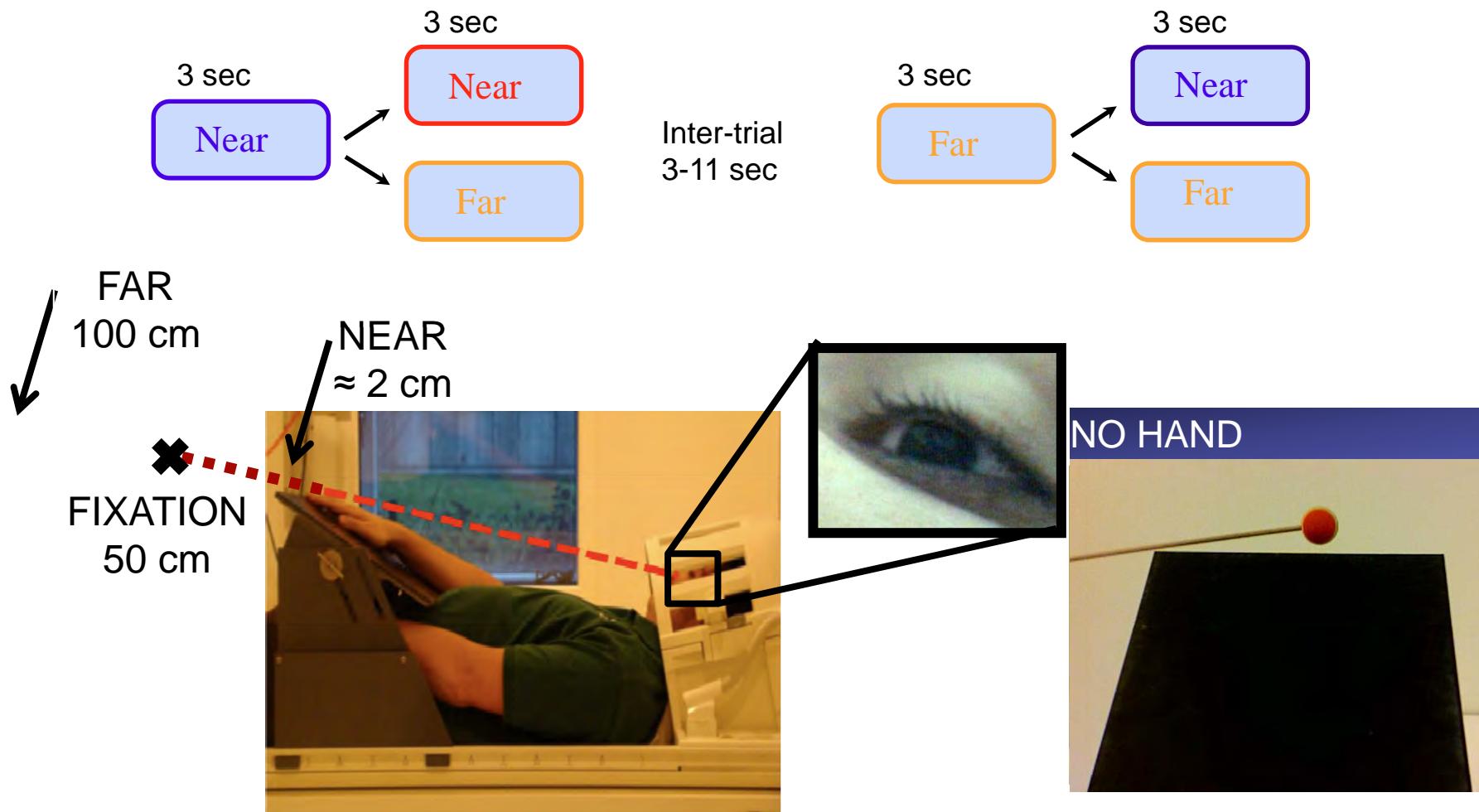
Gentile et al. (2010) J. Neurophysiol

# Human premotor and intraparietal cortices performs multisensory integration



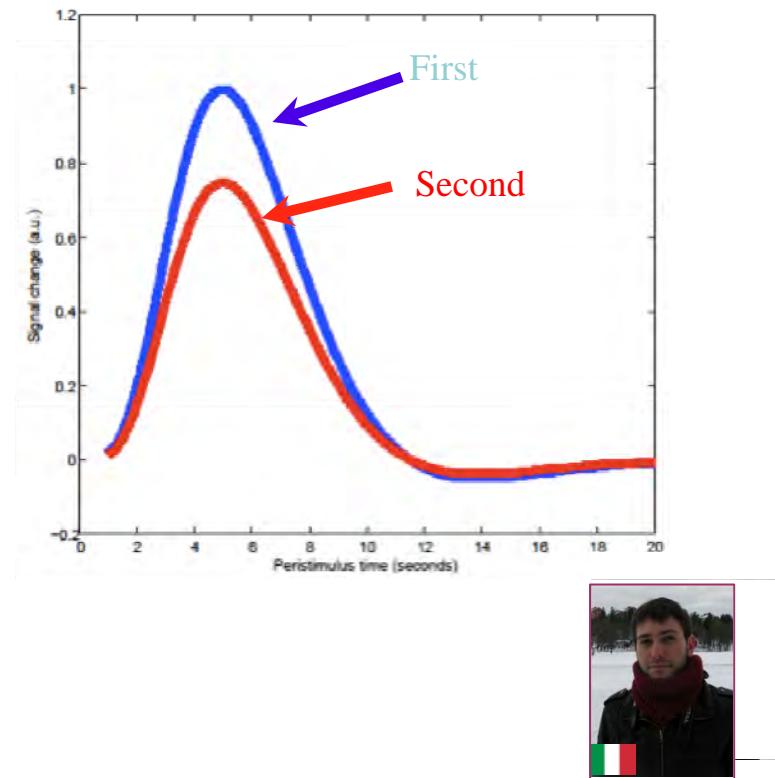
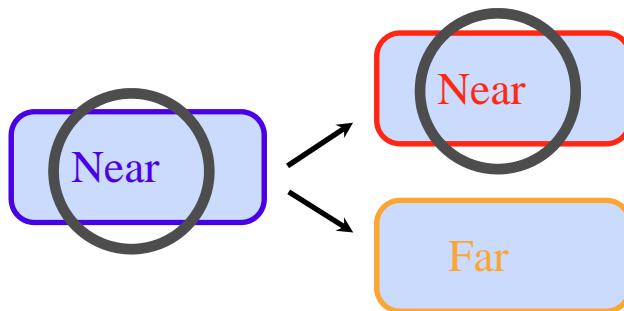
Gentile et al. (2010) J. Neurophysiol

# fMRI evidence for peripersonal space in human premotor and intraparietal cortices



Brozzoli et al. (In manuscript)

# fMRI-adaptation evidence for peripersonal space in human premotor and intraparietal cortices



Brozzoli et al. (In manuscript)

# fMRI-adaptation evidence for peripersonal space in human premotor and intraparietal cortices



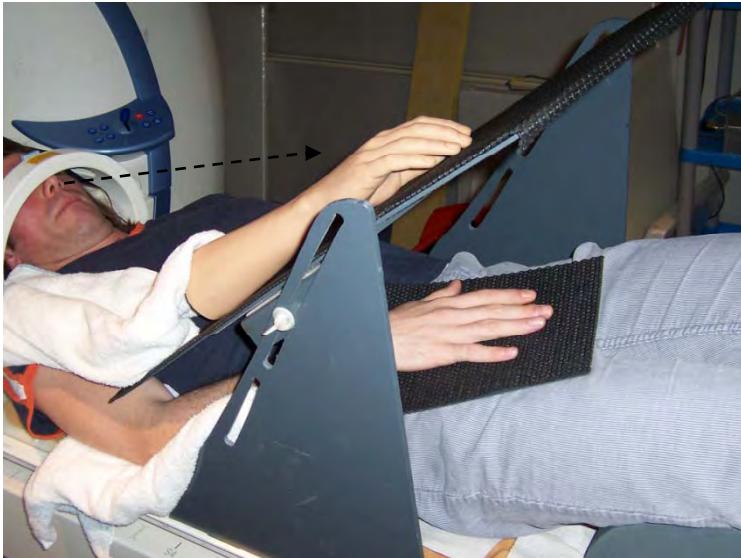
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Brozzoli et al. (In manuscript)

## 4. Imaging illusions of body ownership

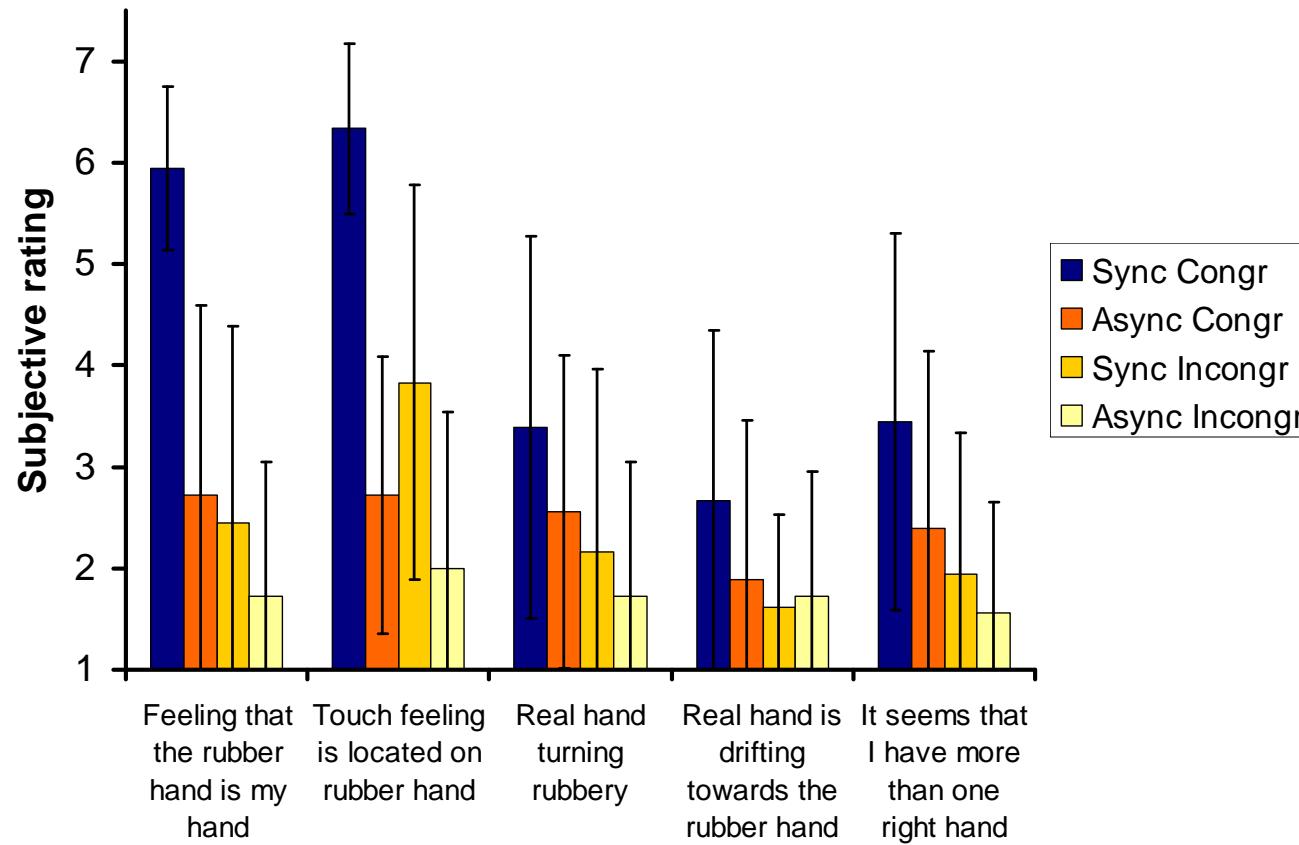
# fMRI of rubber hand illusion



		Timing of brushstrokes	
		Asynchronous	Synchronous
Arm orientation	Incongruent	Asynch. Incongr.	Synch. Incongr.
	Congruent	Asynch. Congr.	Synch. Congr.

Ehrsson et al. (2004) *Science*

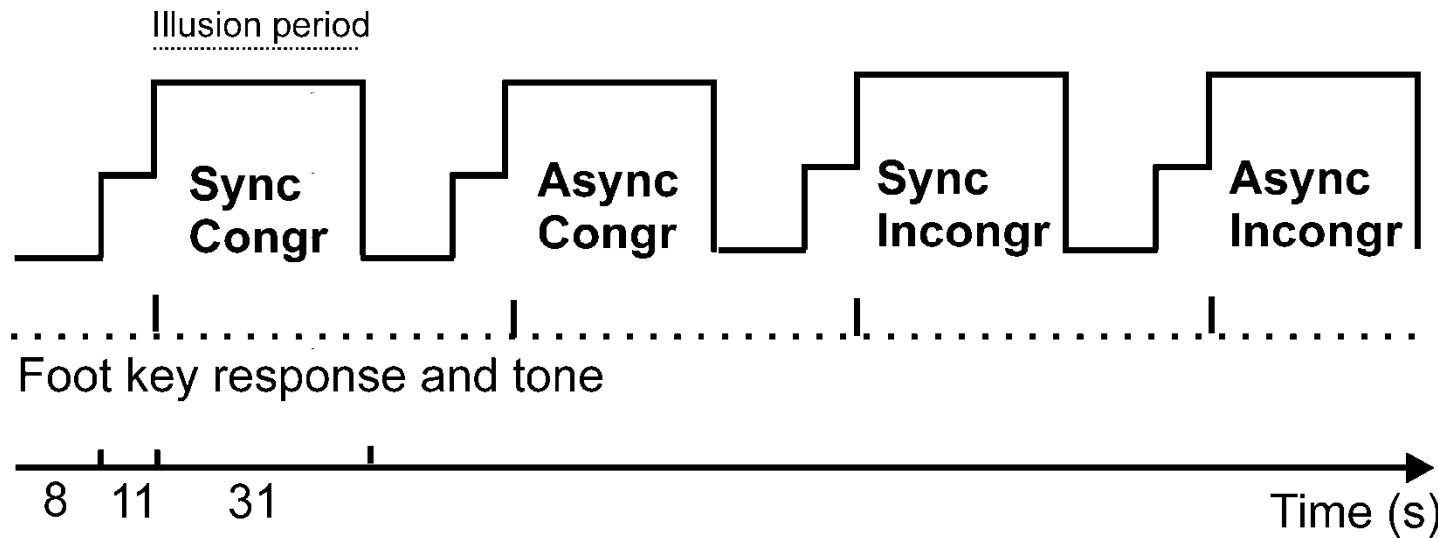
# Illusion ratings



Interaction brushstroke-timing and arm orientation  
( $F(1, 17)=14.22$ ;  $p<0.005$ )

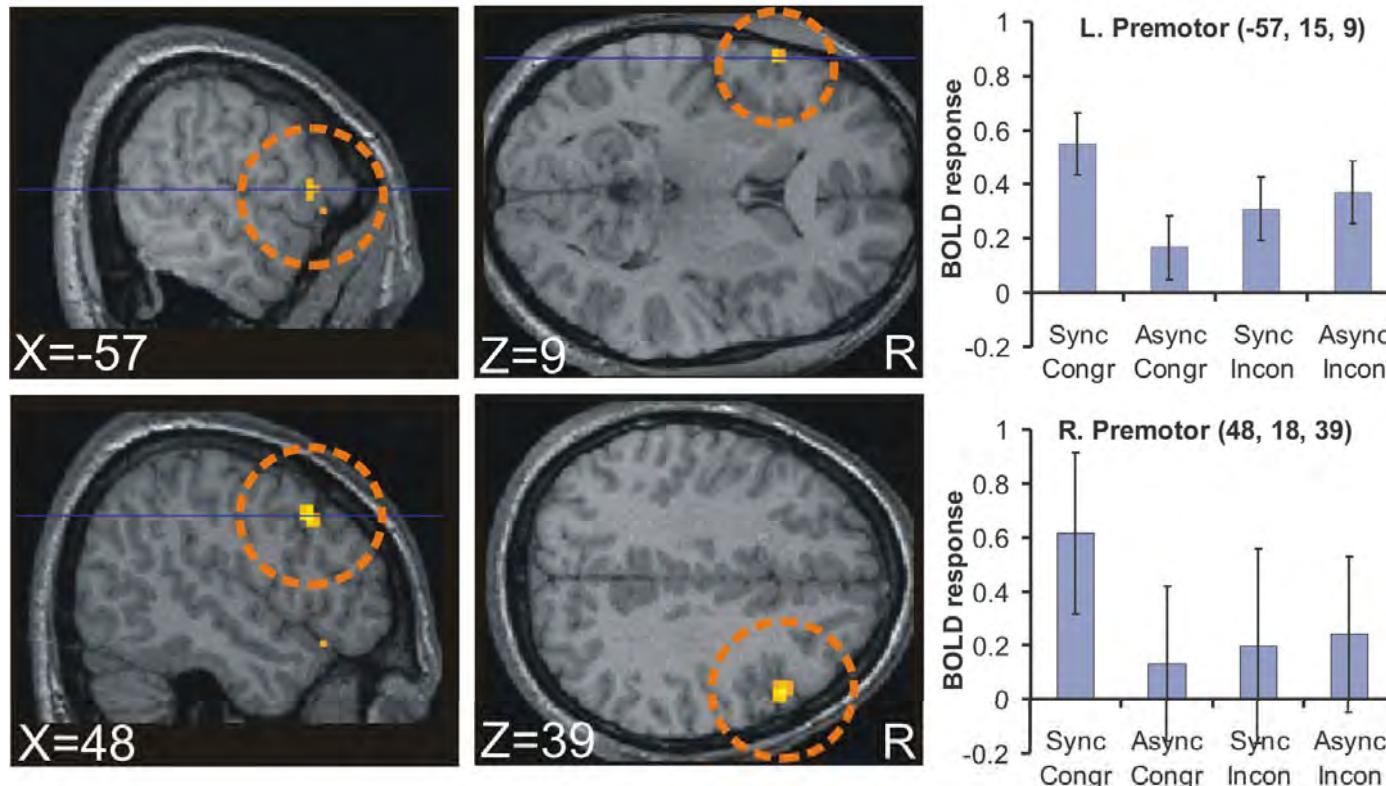
Ehrsson et al. (2004) *Science*

# Experimental paradigm



Ehrsson et al. (2004) *Science*

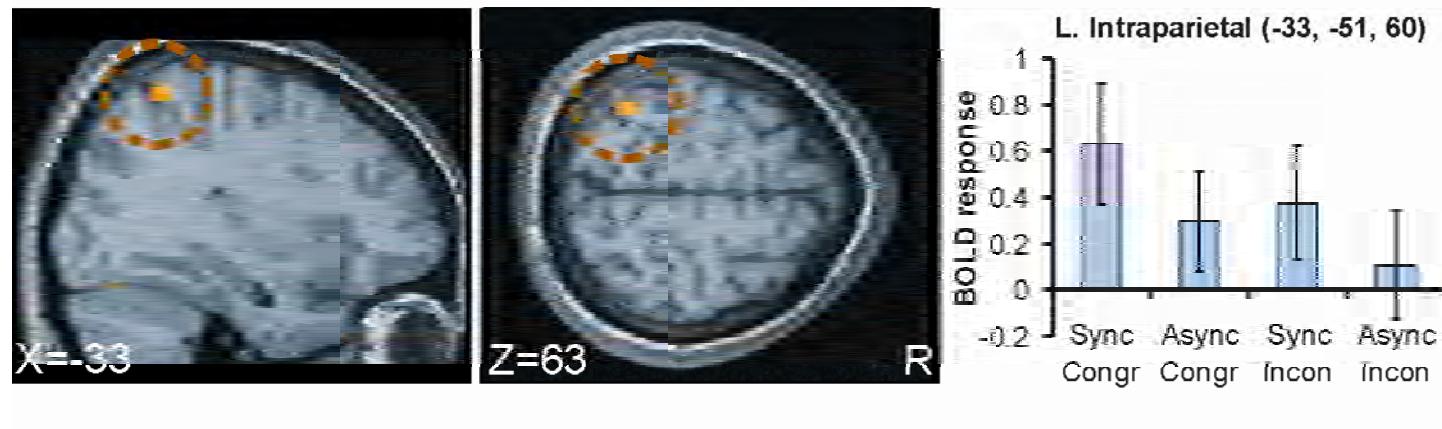
# Premotor activity reflects feeling of ownership (superadditive effect)



Left and right ventral premotor cortex ( $p < 0.05$  corrected)

Ehrsson et al. (2004) *Science*

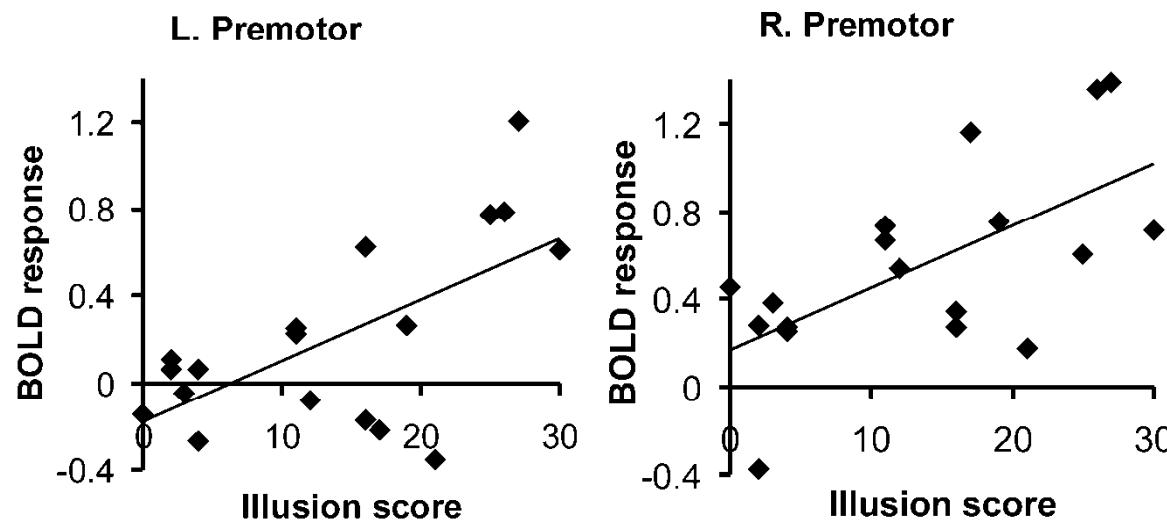
# Parietal activity reflects congruent hand position and synchrony (addititve effect)



Conjunction of main effects of synchrony and anatomical congruency ( $p < 0.001$  corrected)

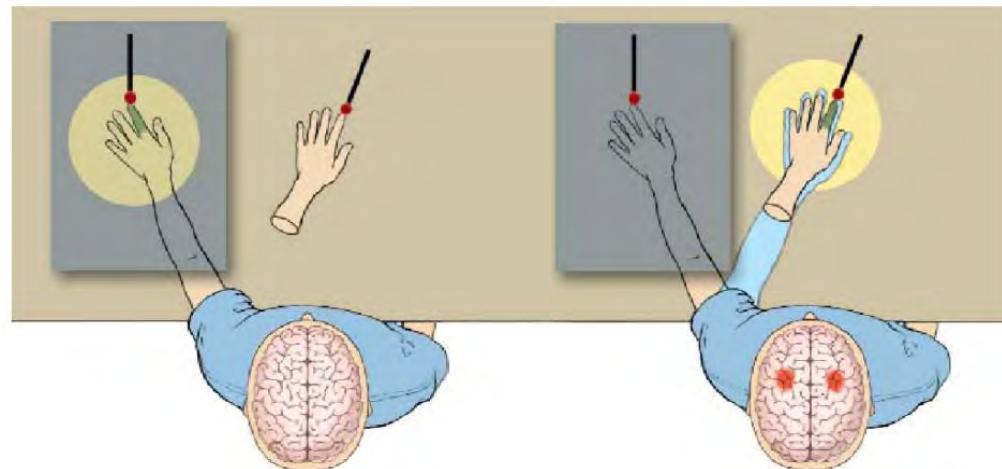
Ehrsson et al. (2004) *Science*

# Correlation between illusion ratings and premotor activity

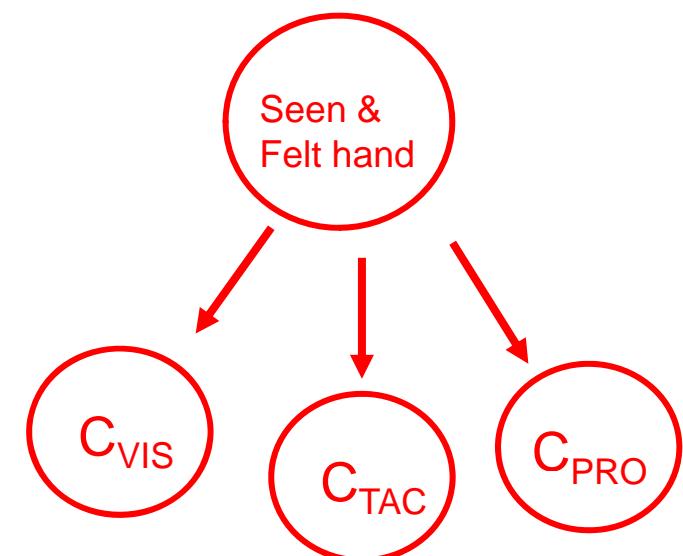


Ehrsson et al. (2004) *Science*

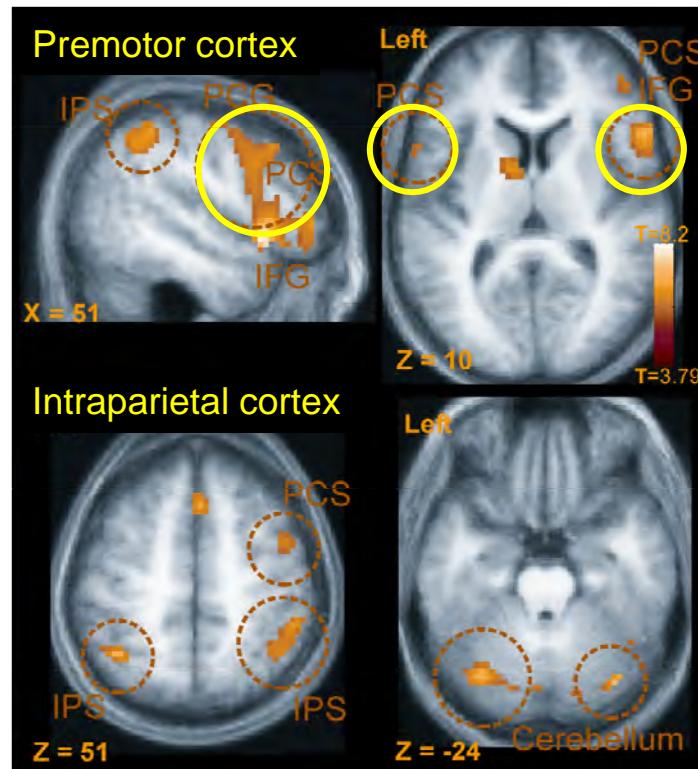
# Conclusion: multisensory integration in premotor and intraparietal areas reflect limb ownership



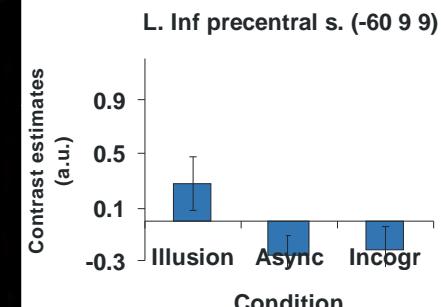
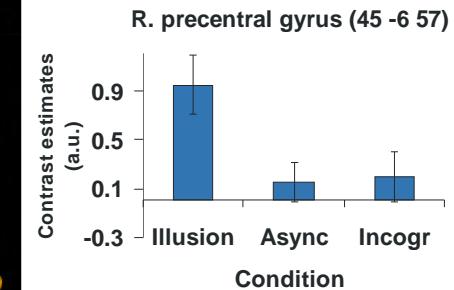
Botvinick (2004) *Science*



# Somatic rubber hand illusion illusion

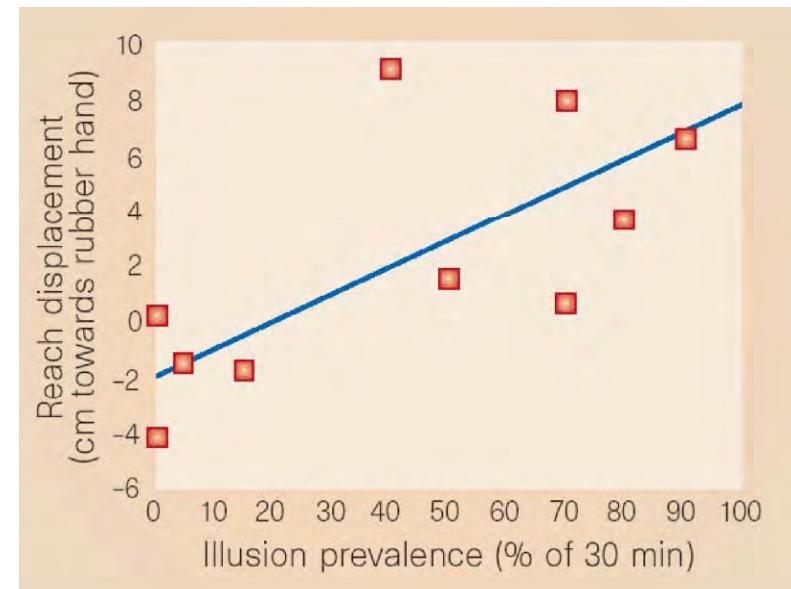


## Premotor cortex



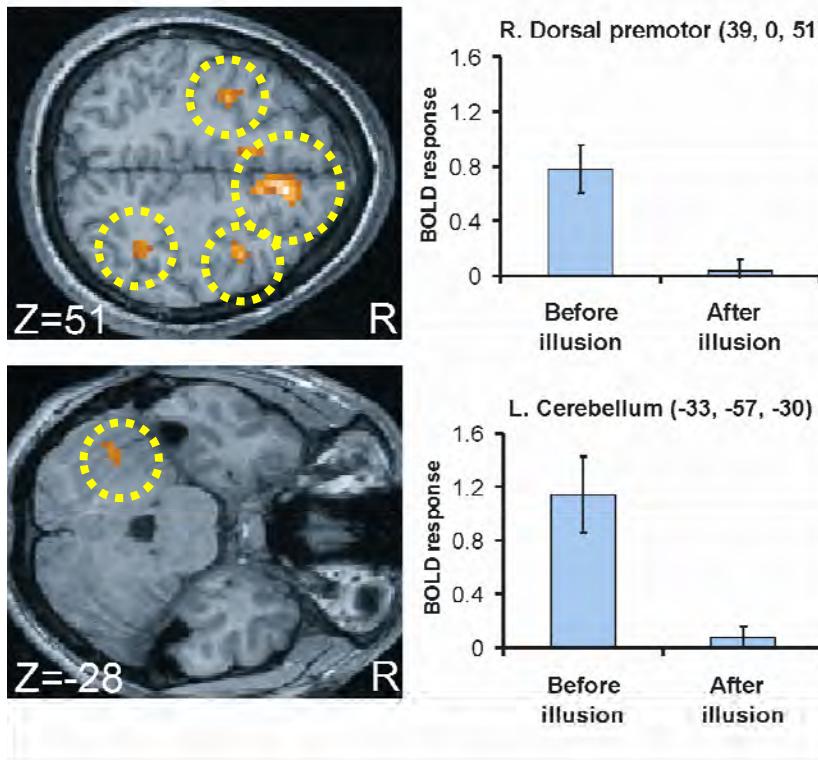
Ehrsson et al. *J Neurosci.* 25:10564-73, 2005

# Re-calibration of position sense



Botvinick and Cohen (1998) *Nature*

# Recalibration of position sense in a ‘reaching circuit’ before illusion onset



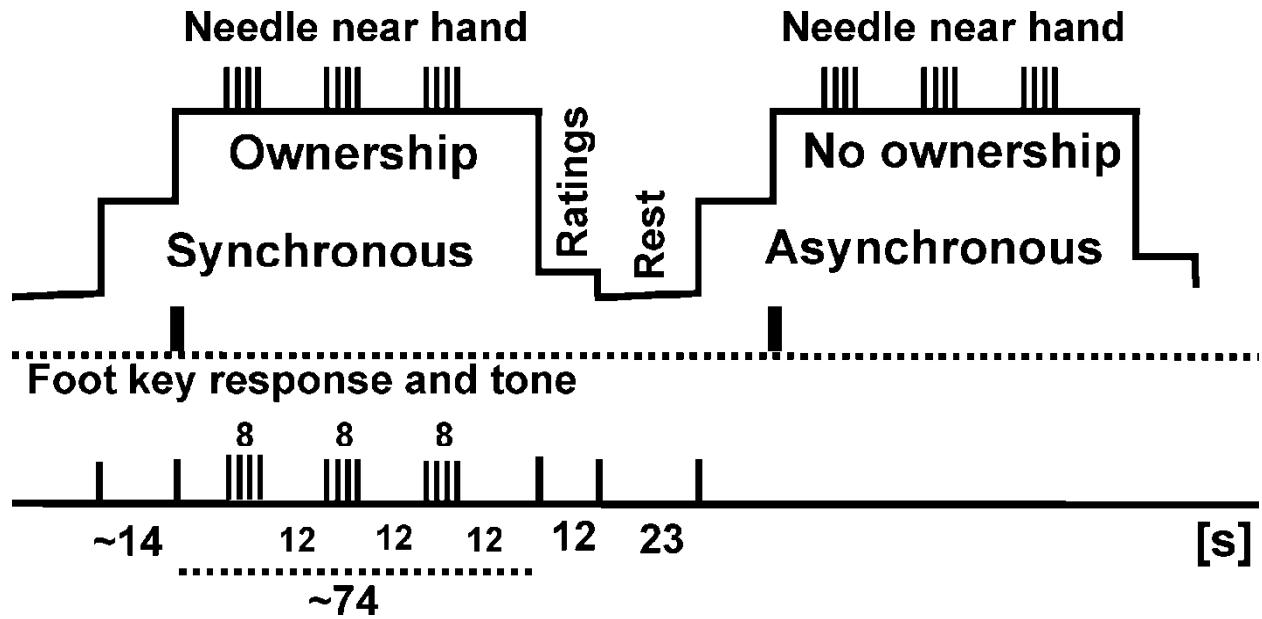
Supplementary motor area, dorsal premotor cortex, the posterior parietal cortex, and the cerebellum

Ehrsson et al. (2004) Science

# Objective evidence by threatening the rubber hand

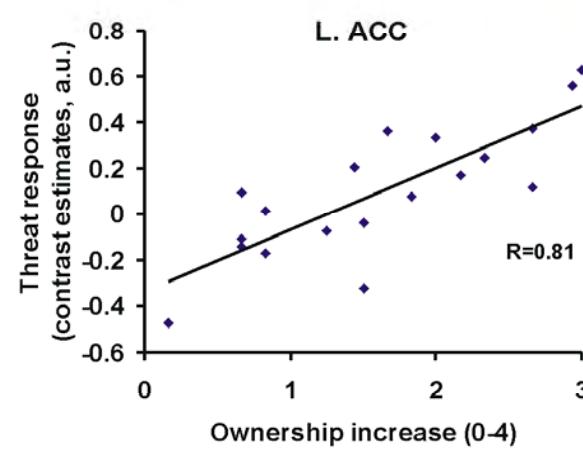
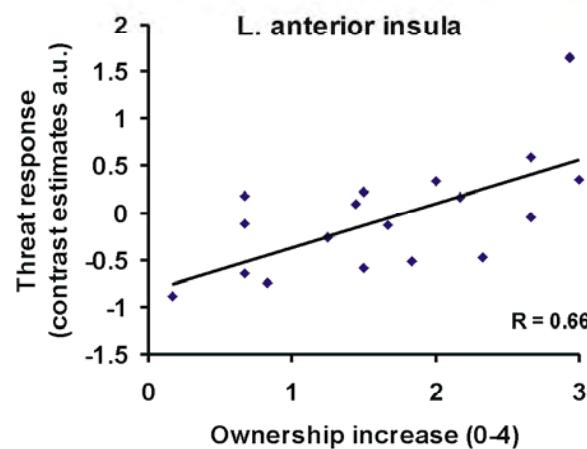
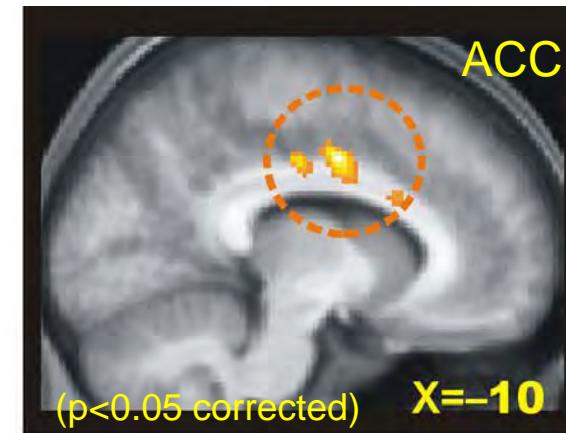
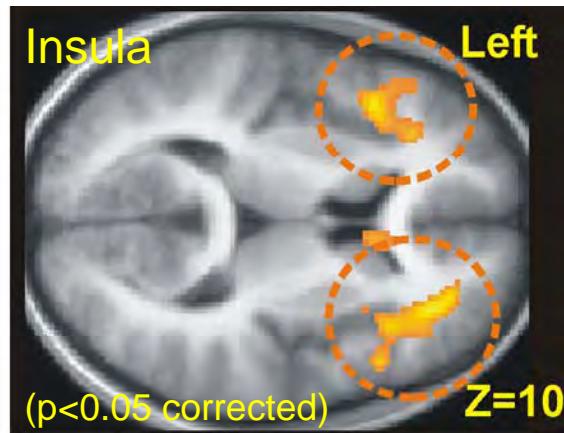


# Experimental design



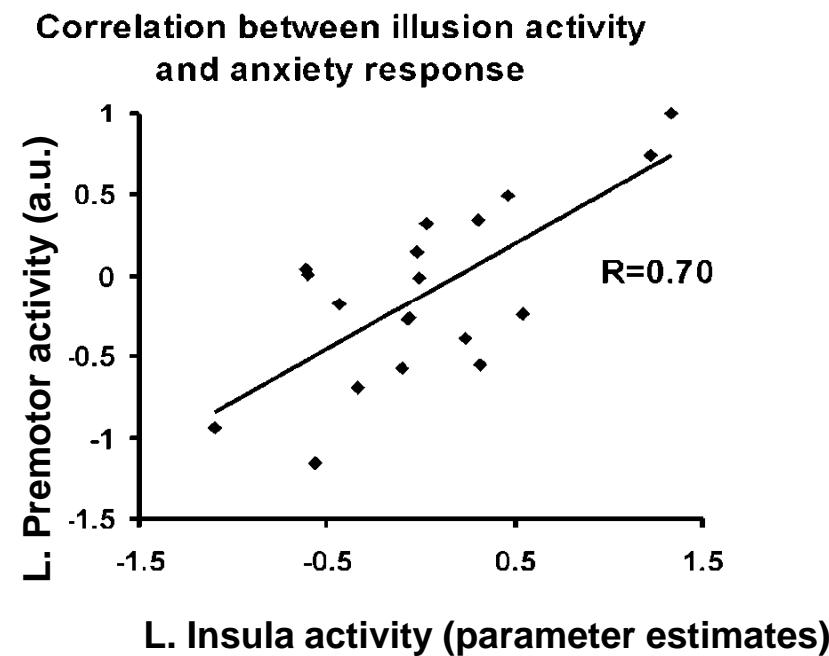
Ehrsson et al. (2007) PNAS 104:9828-9833

# Increased threat-evoked response when owning the hand

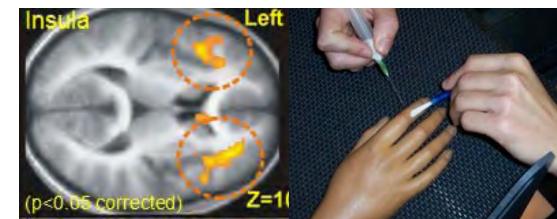


Ehrsson et al. (2007) PNAS 104:9828-9833

# Activity in multisensory areas predict the threat-evoked response

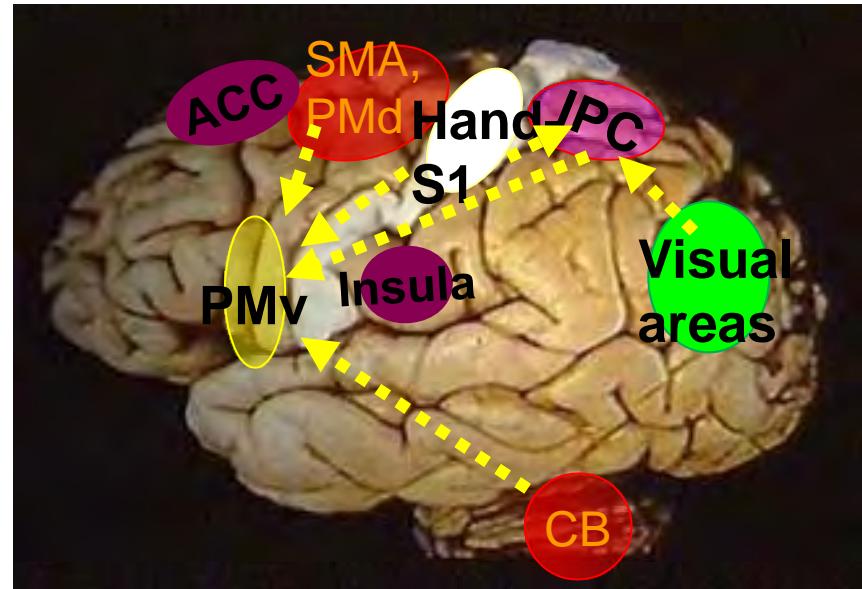


Ehrsson et al. (2007) PNAS

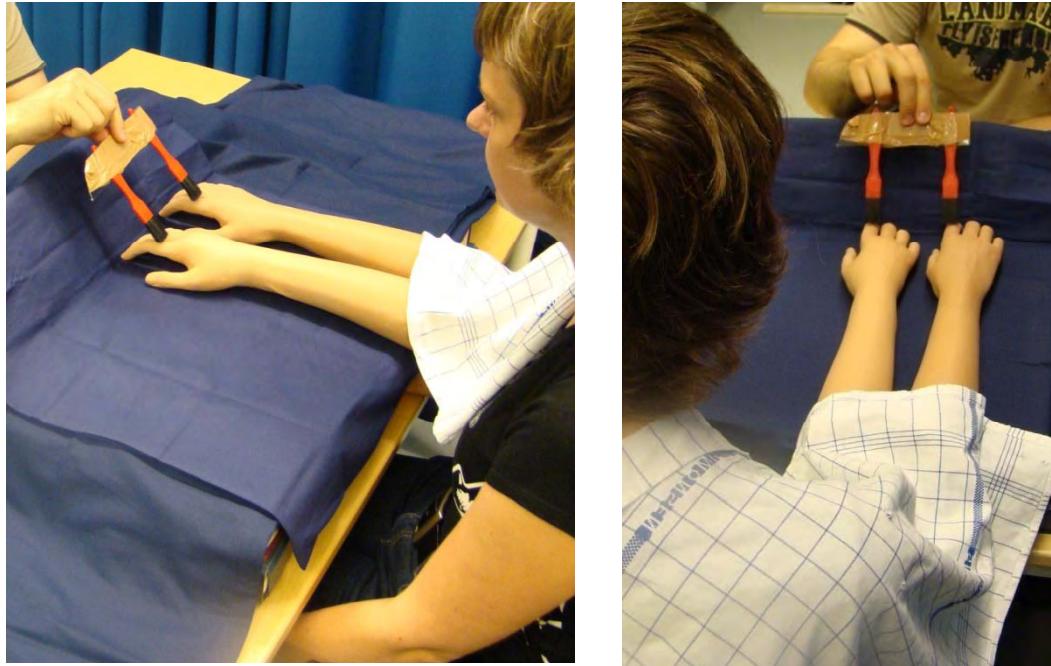


# A preliminary model of limb ownership

- Processing of visual and tactile signals in early sensory areas
- Integration of visual and tactile signals in posterior parietal cortex.
- Recalibration of position sense in motor regions.
- Match of temporally and spatially congruent multisensory signals in premotor cortex (PMv) produce ownership
- Changes in other brain systems, e.g. in the emotional system

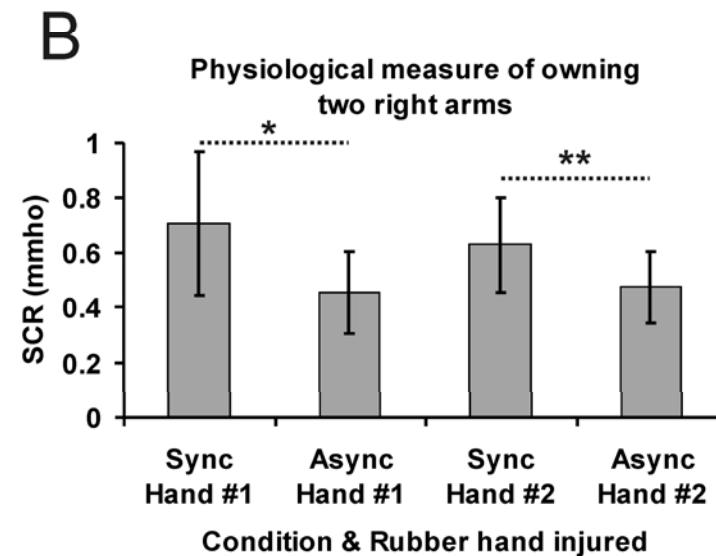


# Three-arm-illusion: a remarkable case of construction



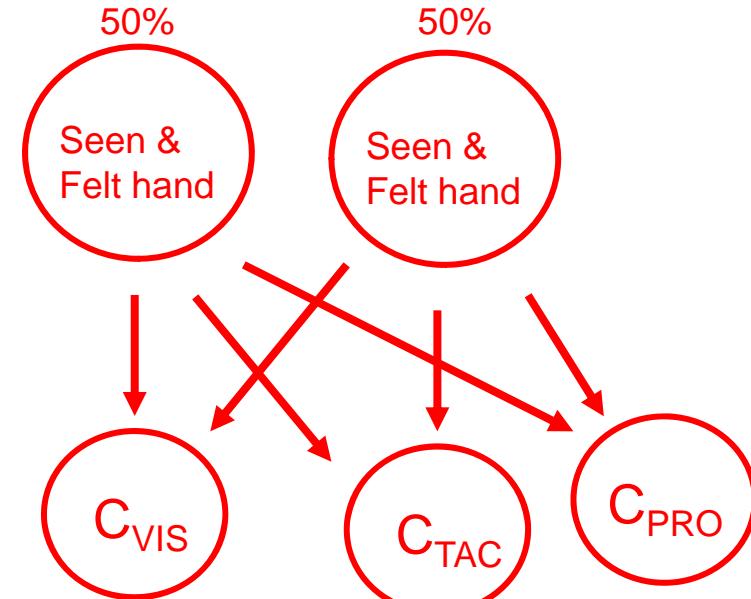
Ehrsson (2009) *Perception* 38, 310-312

# Objective evidence



Ehrsson (2009) *Perception* 38, 310-312

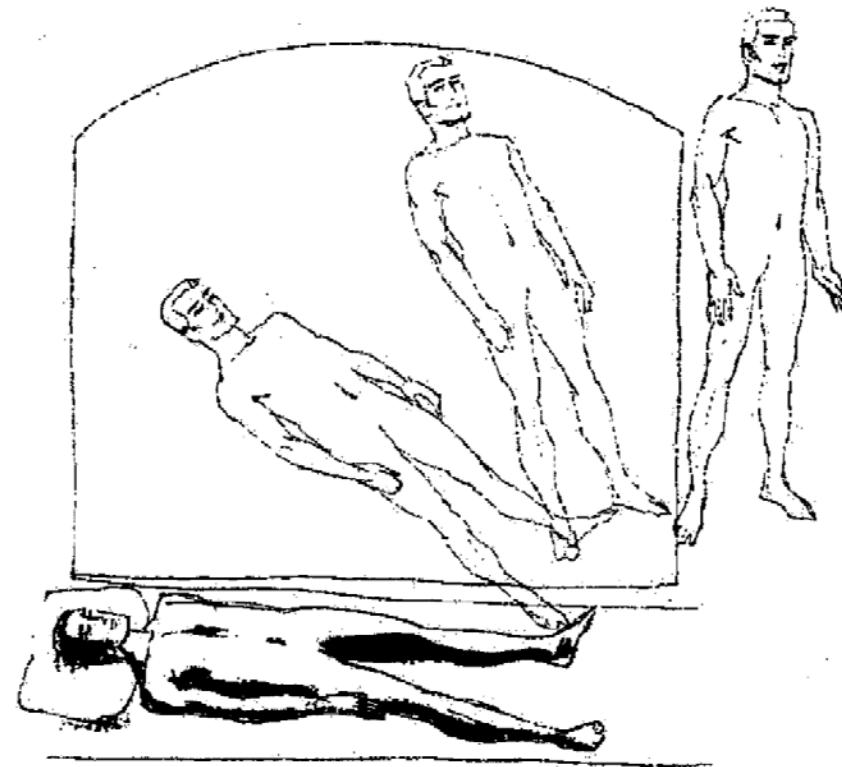
# Three-arm-illusion: a remarkable case of construction



9 februari 2011

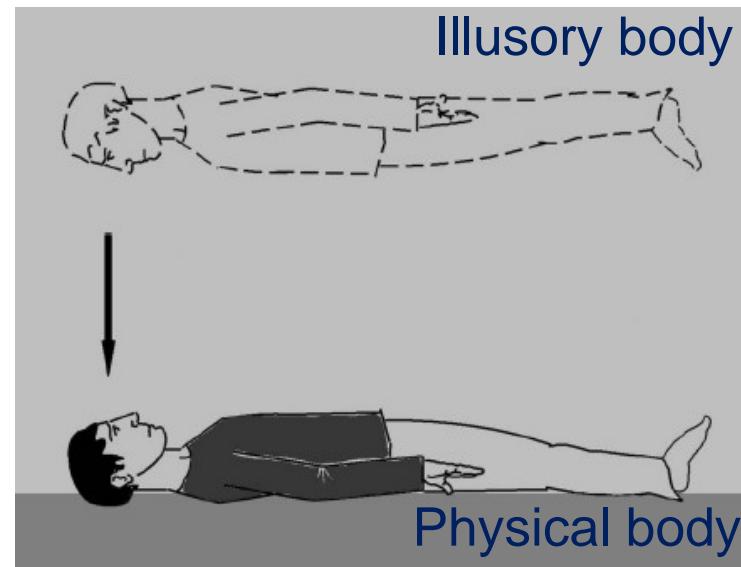
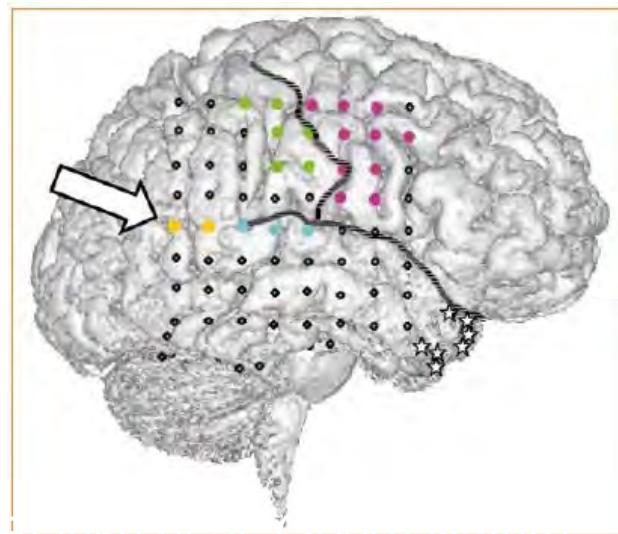
Ehrsson (2009) *Perception* 38, 310-312

## 5. Extending the model to ownership of entire bodies



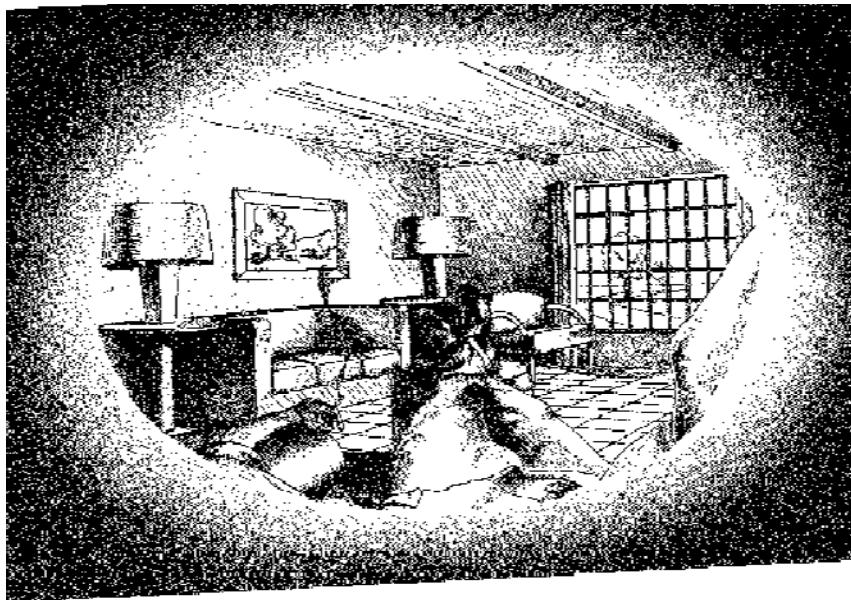
Out-of-body experiences (From Brugger 2002)

# Neurological out-of-body experiences

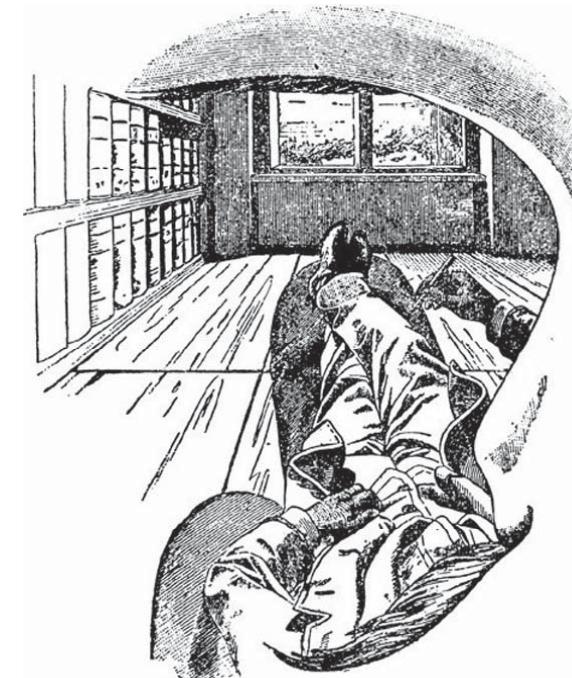


Blanke et al. (2002) *Nature*; Blanke and Mohr (2005) *Brain Res. Reviews*

# First-person perspective and body ownership



Gibson (1972) *The ecological approach to visual perception* (1972)



Ernst Mach (1885)  
*Analyse der Empfindungen*

# Out-of-body illusion

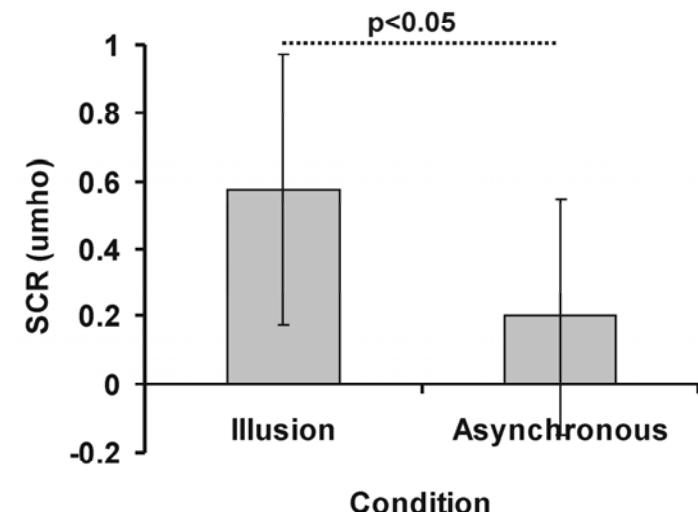


Ehrsson (2007) Science 317: 1048

# Experimental evidence

**A**

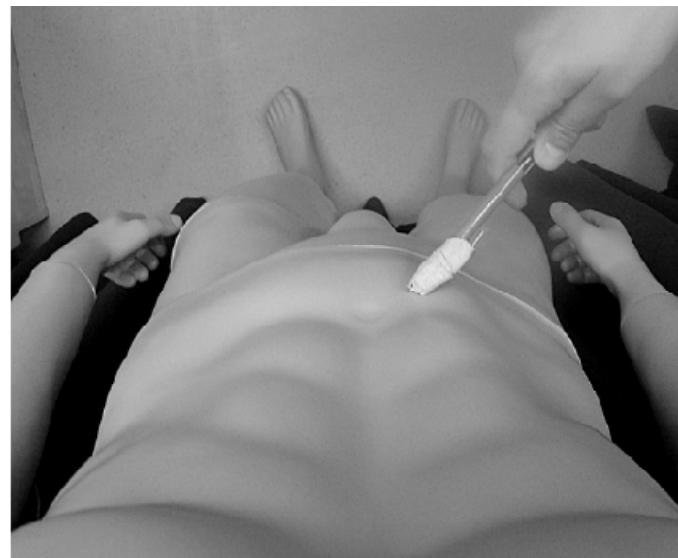
BBC  
TWO horizon

**B**

Registration of skin conductance response (SCR)

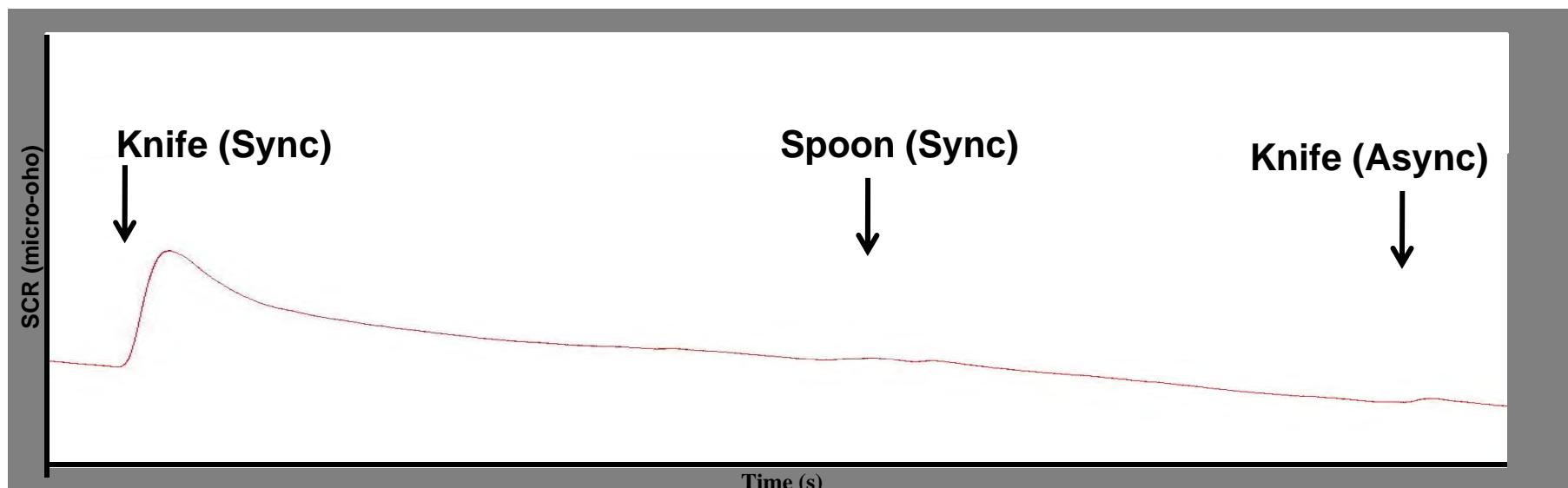
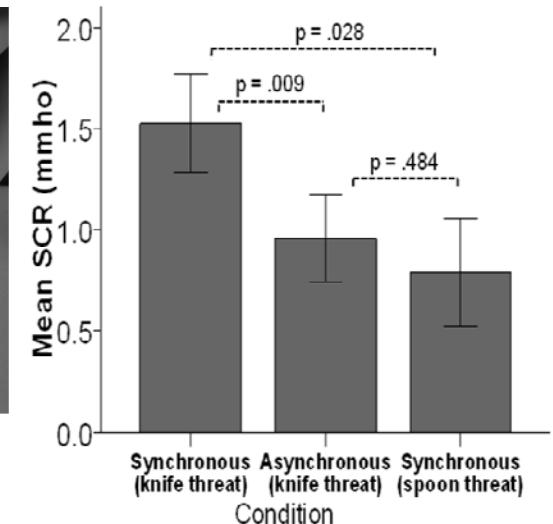
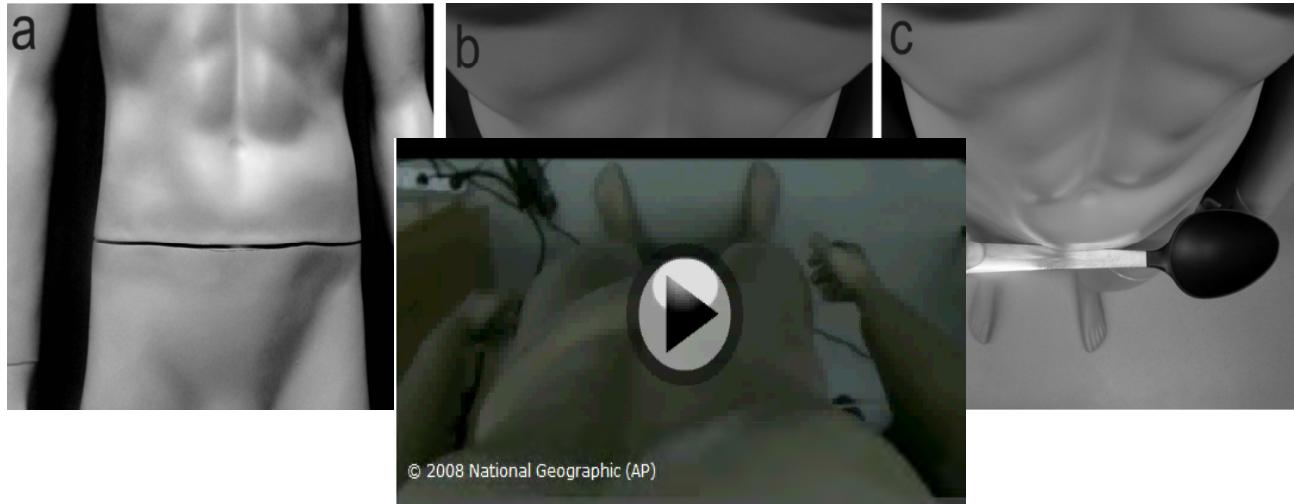
Ehrsson (2007) *Science*

# Ownership of an entire body other than oneself



Petkova & Ehrsson et al. PLoS One (2008)

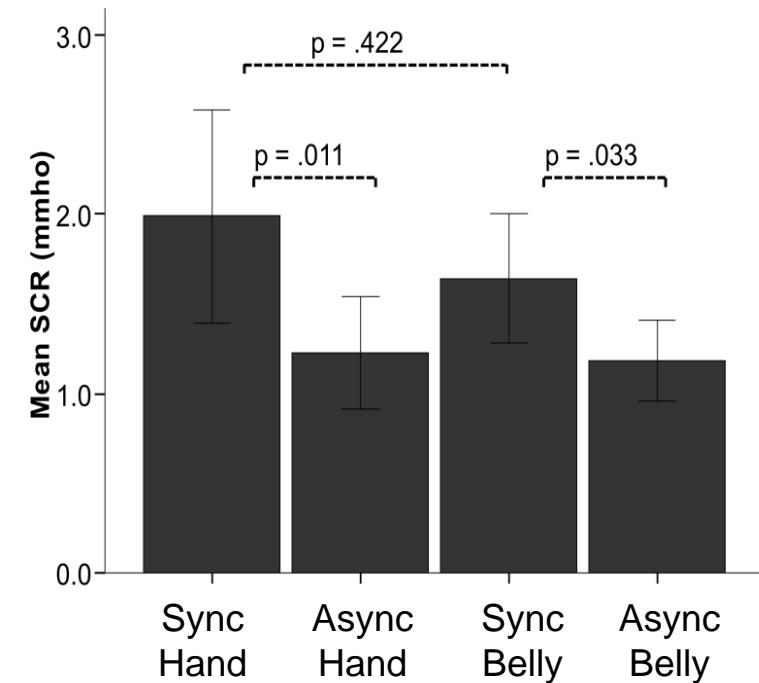
# Objective test: Skin Conductance Response



# Generalization of ownership to non-stimulated body parts

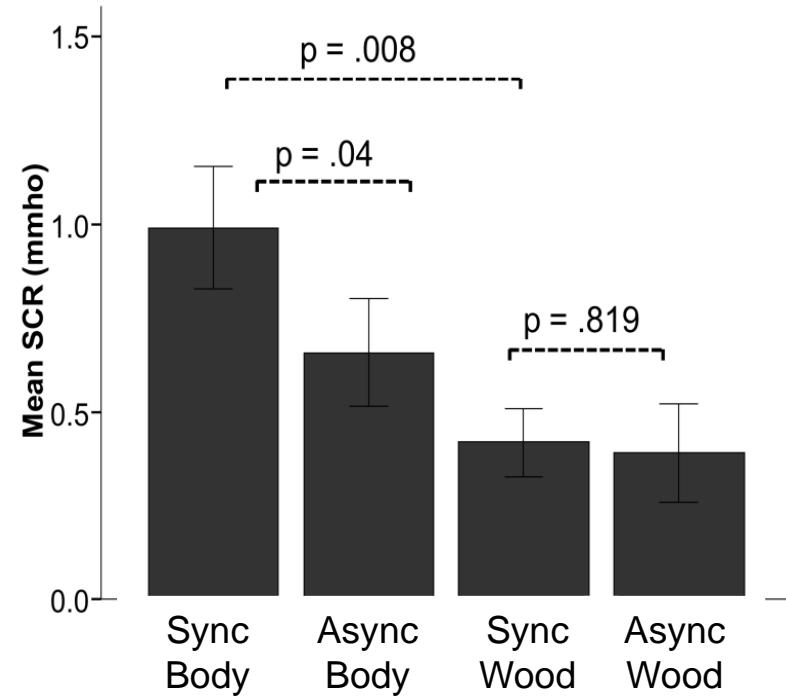
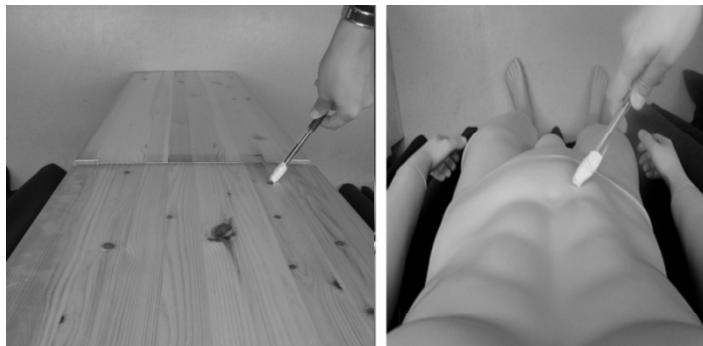
## Key experimental test:

1. Brush hand → 2. Cut Belly



Petkova & Ehrsson (2008) *PLoS ONE*

# Effect of humanoid body shape



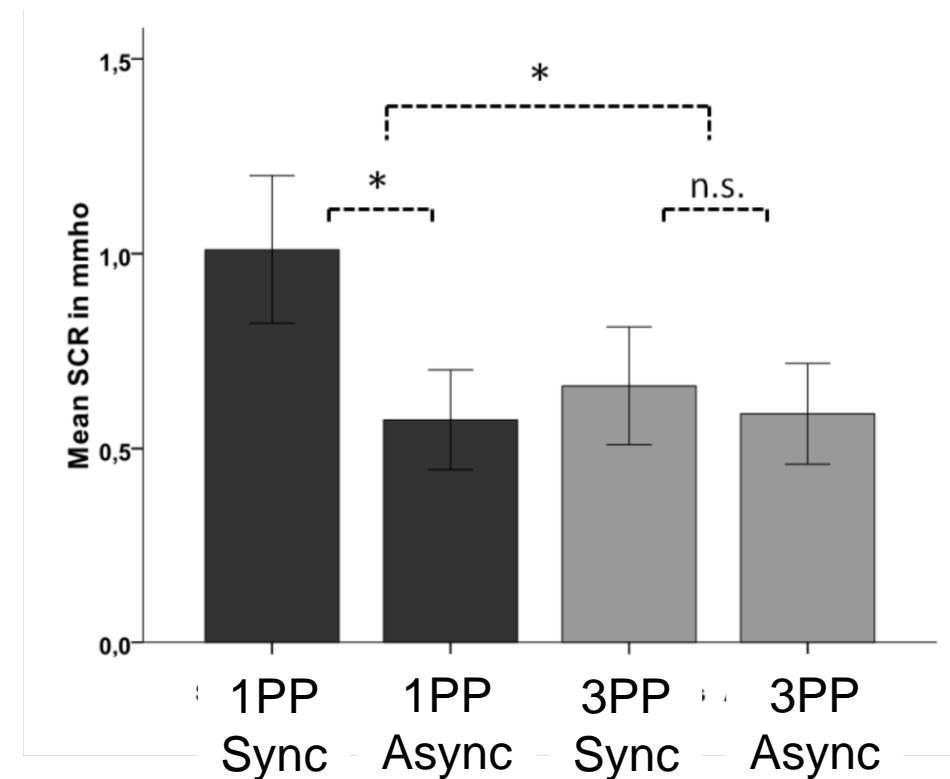
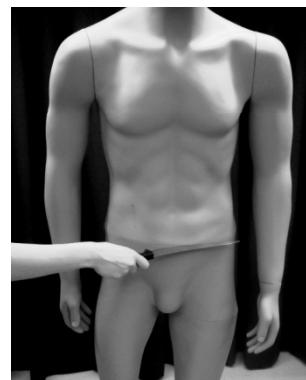
Petkova & Ehrsson PLoS One (2008)

# Effect of visual perspective

First-person-perspective  
(1PP)



Third-person-perspective  
(3PP)



# The illusion can be induced without video-technology, but only from the first-person perspective

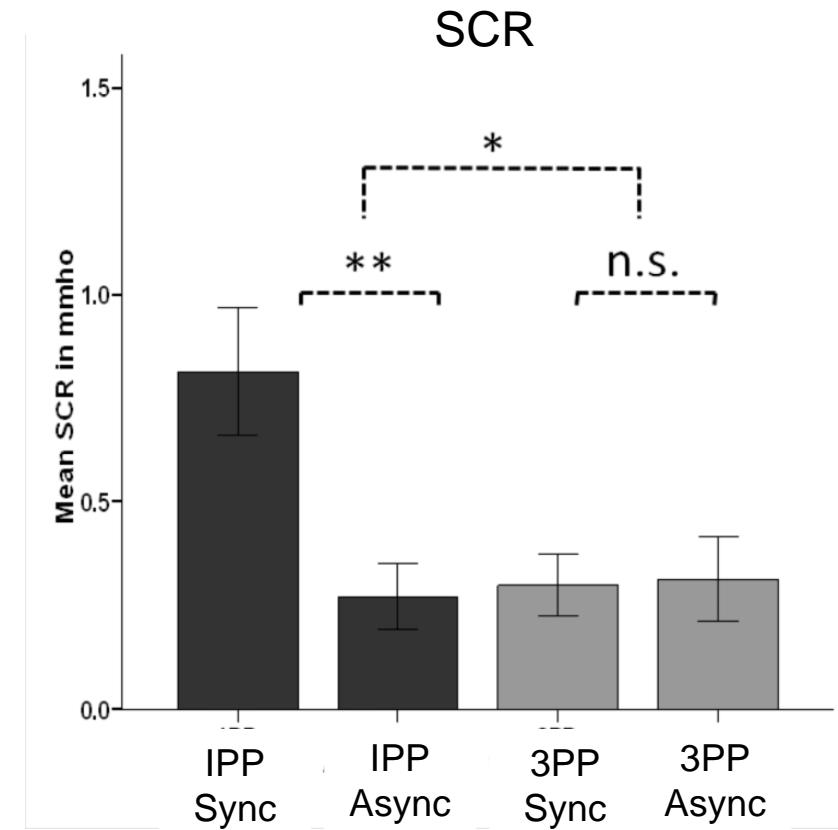
1PP



3PP

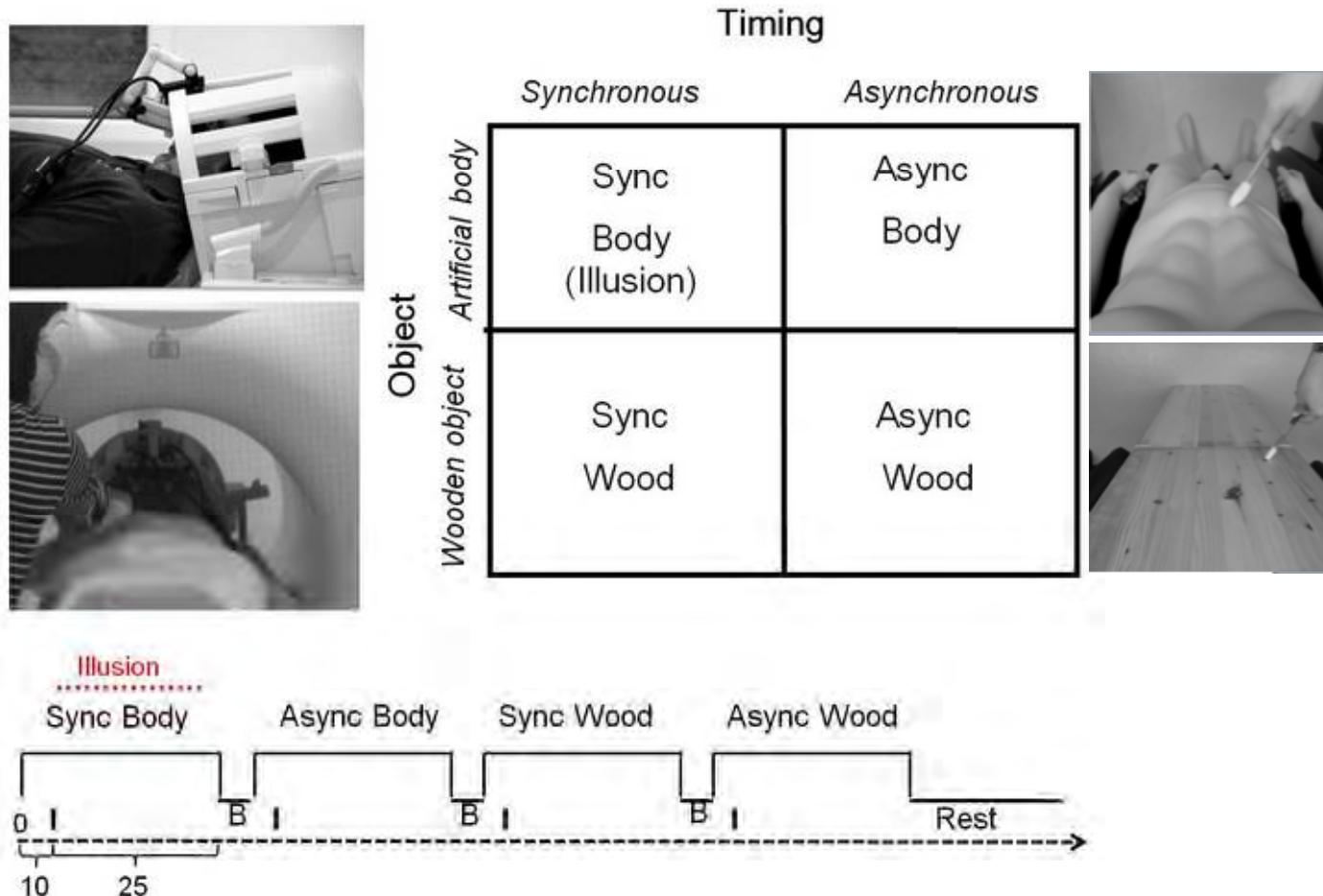


# The illusion can be induced without video-technology, but only from the first-person perspective



Petkova et al. *In revision Frontiers in Cognition*

# Imaging the full-body illusion: Object x Timing

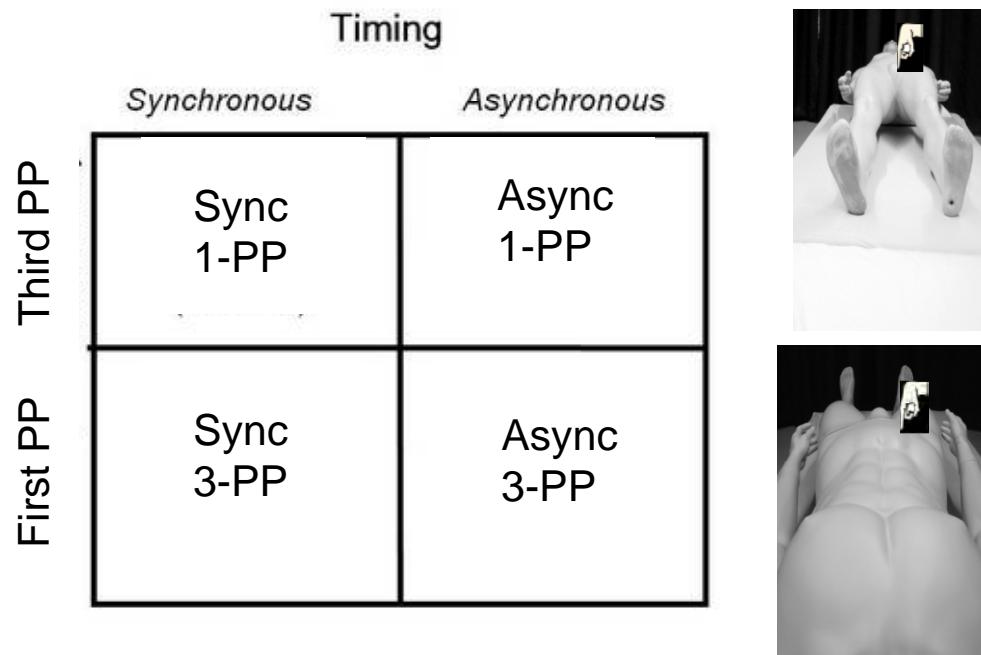


Petkova et al. (submitted)

# Interaction effect (Body X Sync)

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# Imaging the full-body illusion: Perspective x Timing



Petkova et al. (submitted)

# Interaction effect (1PP X Sync)

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# Correlation between illusion strength and interaction BOLD effect

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# Imaging the full-body illusion: Generalisation of ownership across body parts

		Timing	
			Mannequin's hand vs detached hand
		Sync Belly	Async Belly
Body part on mannequin		Sync Hand	Async Hand
		Sync Detached Hand	Async Detached Hand

Three images illustrating the experimental conditions:

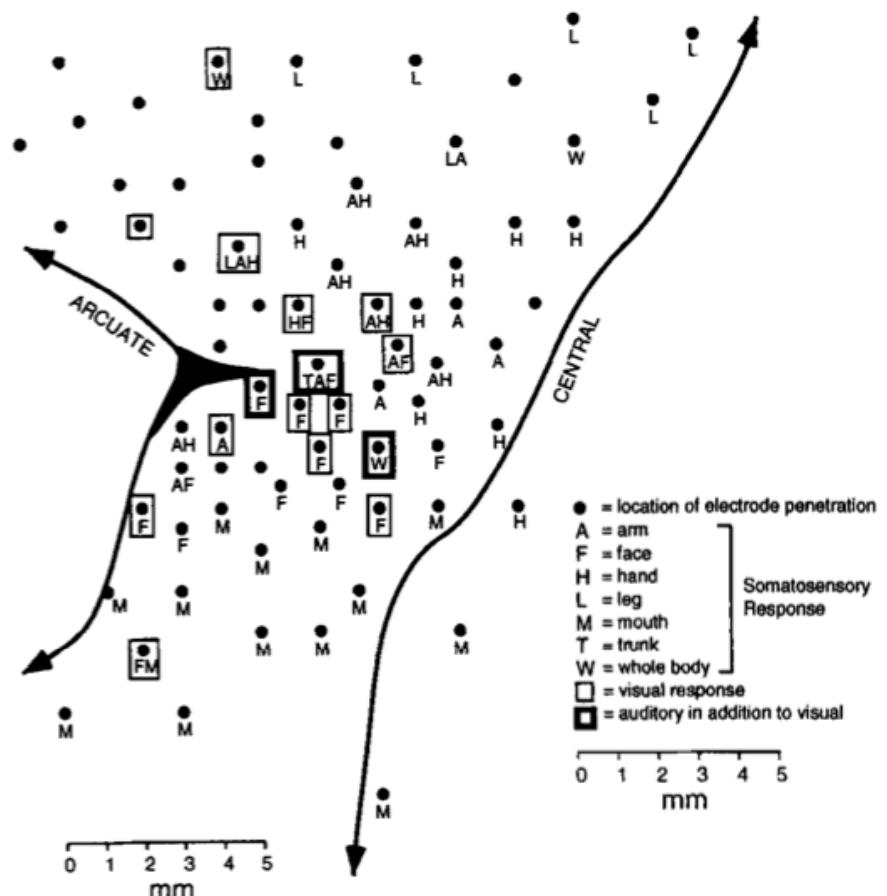
- Top image: Sync Belly, Sync Hand (Body part on mannequin)
- Middle image: Sync Belly, Async Hand (Mannequin's hand vs detached hand)
- Bottom image: Sync Belly, Sync Detached Hand (Body part on mannequin)

Petkova et al. (submitted)

# Body-part specific and body-part general activations

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# Body-part specific and body-part general activations



Petkova et al. (submitted)

Graziano et al. (2000) Exp Brain Res

# **Hand attached to mannequin Vs detached hand (interaction effect)**

# Generalization of ownership between body-specific sections

# Interim conclusion: ownership of entire bodies

- Visual information from the **first-person perspective**, in conjunction with **spatially and temporally congruent tactile, proprioceptive and visual signals** in **ego-centric reference frames** are *necessary and sufficient* factors elicit a sense of ownership of an entire body.
- Our fMRI results suggest that the key neural mechanism is the **integration of visual and somatic signals** in **body-part-centred reference frames** by **multisensory neuronal populations** in **premotor and intraparietal cortex**.
- Importantly, these **multisensory mechanisms operate in parallel** for different body parts with **functional interplay between these processes**.



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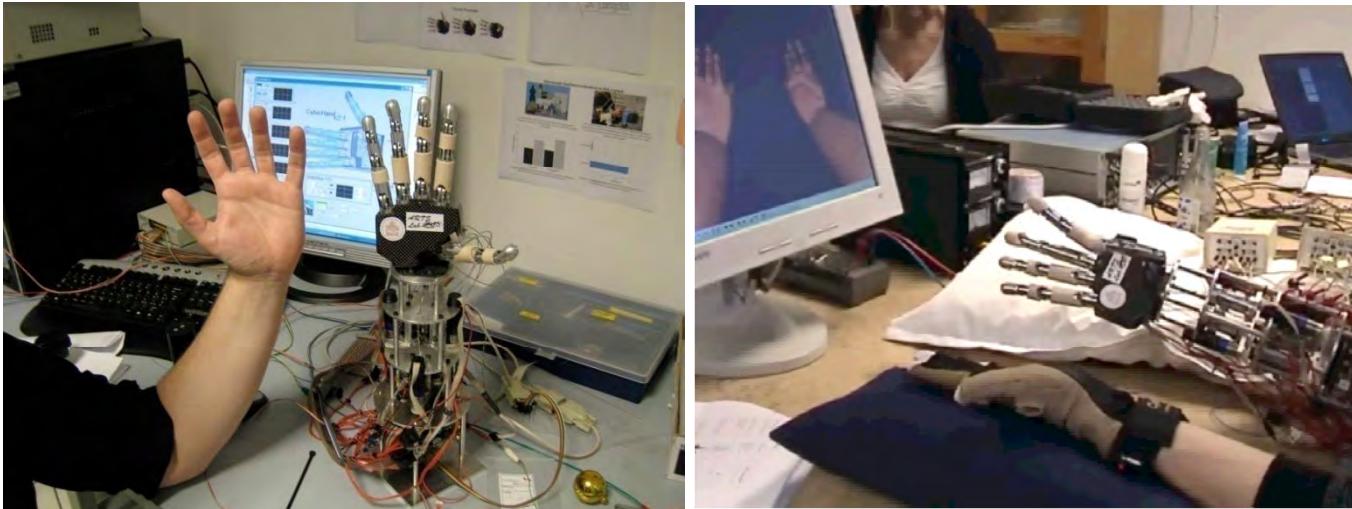
## 6. Applications: simulated bodies and advanced prosthetics

# Projecting ownership to virtual bodies



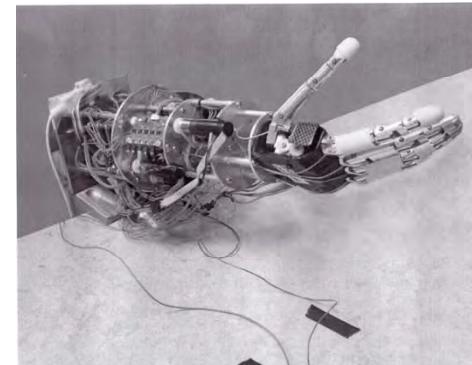
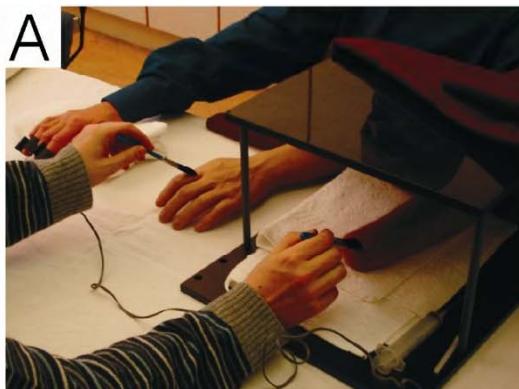
- Slater et al. (PLOS ONE 2010)
- Jesper Mortensen, Pankaj Khanna, Insu Yu, Bernhard Spanlang, Mel Slater EPSRC 'Presence in the Virtual Light Field' and FET PRESENCCIA.

# Humanoid robotic hand prostheses

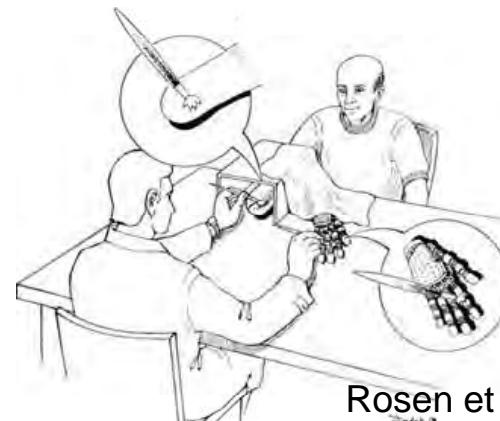


- SMART hand project (6FP project coordinated from University of Lund; Fredrik Sebelius Dept. Electrical Measurements, Lund University)
- “the PISA hand” - developed and provided by the ARTS Lab, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna (IST-2001-35094)

# Upper limb amputees can be induced to experience a rubber hand as their own

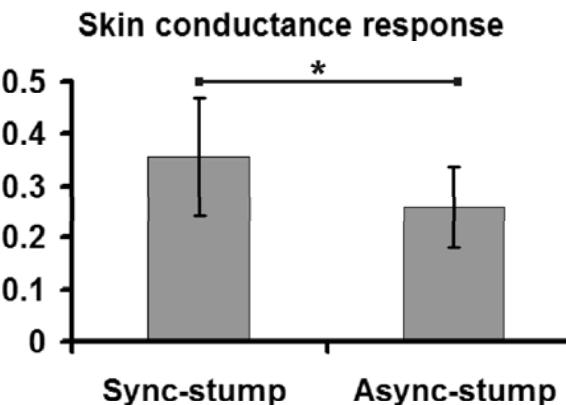
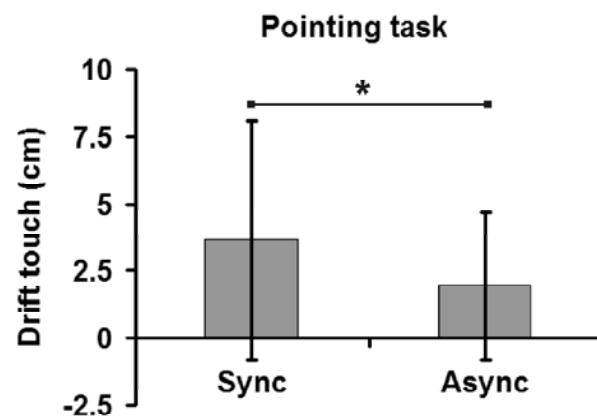
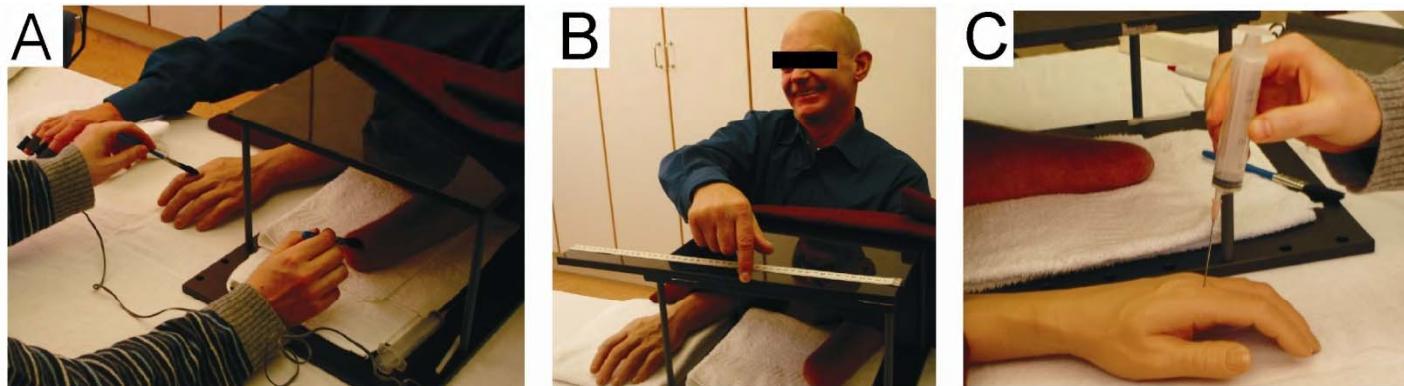


Ehrsson HH, Rosén B, Stockslius A, Ragnö C,  
Köhler P, Lundborg G (2008) *Brain* 131, 3443-3452



Rosen et al. (2009) *Scand J Plast Reconstr Surg Hand Surg.* 43:260-266

# Upper limb amputees can be induced to experience a rubber hand as their own



Ehrsson et al. (2008) *Brain* 131, 3443-3452

# Summary



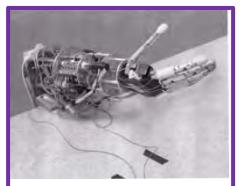
- The problem of body ownership can be explained within a multisensory framework.



- The natural constraints of the rubber hand illusion and full-body illusions obey multisensory integration principles.



- Activity in premotor and intraparietal cortex obeys the 'multisensory rules' of the body ownership illusions; thus multisensory integration in body-part-centered coordinates is a likely mechanism of ownership.



- By employing the multisensory principles of body ownership one can create a new type of arm-prostheses that feels more like a real limb.

# Brain, Body and Self Laboratory



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Dr. Alexander Skoglund, research engineer



Dr. Hiske van Duinen, postdoc



Dr. Claudio Brozzoli, postdoc



Dr. Loretxu Bergouignan, postdoc



Dr. Laura Schmalzl, postdoc



Valeria Petkova, PhD student.



Giovanni Gentile, PhD student



Andreas Kalckert, PhD student.



Arvid Guterstam PhD student



Björn van der Hoort, Hedvig Zetterberg and Chris Berger (master students)



JAMES S. McDONNELL FOUNDATION



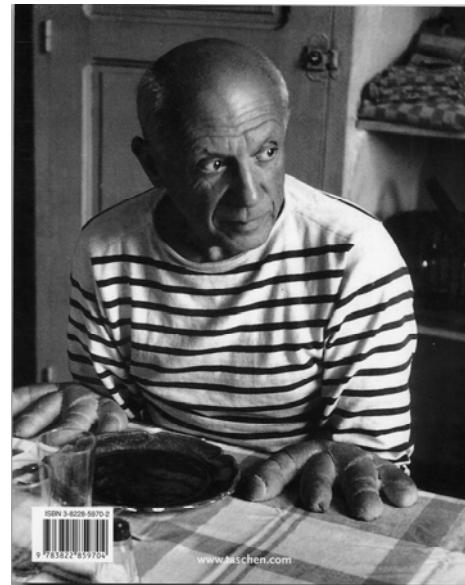
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<http://www.neuro.ki.se/ehrsson/>  
Postdoc positions open!



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# Thank you!



<http://www.neuro.ki.se/ehrsson/>