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Using words to investigate the brain and vice-versa: What language processing and brain organization tell us about each other

In the course of his long career, Eran Zaidel has made numerous contributions to our evolving view of how words are processed in the brain. He also employed word processing as a means to study more general issues in brain organization, including the dynamic interaction between the cerebral hemispheres. In this talk I will review recent studies on the neural basis of semantic language processing, focusing on the connections between linguistic and non-linguistic phenomena. In particular, I will make the case that semantic language processing essentially emerges from the dynamic integration of sensory-motor, affective, and other non-linguistic brain systems.