

Call for Papers for the Special Issue:

“Core mechanisms in Action Control: Binding and Retrieval”

Guest Editors:

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We are inviting you to submit a manuscript for publication in a special issue of the *Journal of Cognition*, which is the journal by the European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCoP).

The special issue will focus on action control and its two presumed core processes, namely feature binding and retrieval. Action control is arguably one of the most important topics in cognition as humans interact with their environment by means of goal-directed behavior, i.e. by means of actions. Cognitive processes were developed and shaped to enhance preparation, execution, and regulation of action. Therefore, it is the current consensus that cognition serves action. To date, research on human action control is mainly comprised of an abundance of paradigm-specific results and models. To gain a better understanding of action control, an integrative framework was proposed (the BRAC framework – for Binding and Retrieval in Action Control, [Frings et al., 2020](#)) that can explain a wide range of findings across different experimental paradigms by assuming two core processes as key functions in action control: feature *binding* and feature *retrieval*. Many experimental paradigms that analyze action control (e.g., task switching, negative priming, stimulus-response binding tasks, action planning tasks, or conflict tasks measuring cognitive control) use a sequential logic – in an event features are integrated/bound together and in the following event features are retrieved (although the definition of what an event actually constitutes is somewhat different across paradigms). Unfortunately, most theories neglect the fact that processes of feature binding and retrieval can be independently modulated by top-down and bottom-up processes, rendering the source of potential effects ambiguous. Therefore, the independent modulation of feature binding and retrieval processes is explicitly included in the BRAC framework.

With this special issue, we invite researchers to present data from different sequential paradigms and to discuss the possible impact of binding and retrieval processes. This can be done, for instance, by showing how the sole modulation of one of the processes affects an established experimental effect or by discussing how traditional explanations for specific findings could be accounted for instead by feature binding and retrieval processes. Another

perspective could be to analyze how these core processes relate to other areas of research, for instance, feature integration is also a topic in perception research, and retrieval is obviously evident in learning and memory.

Accordingly, we invite empirical and theoretical work that focuses on the interplay between binding and/or retrieval processes and perceptual, attentional, learning, (working) memory, motivational or emotional processes.

Contributions

Our aim is to compile a special issue full of intriguing and methodically strong papers. Contributions may fall into one of the following categories:

- *Theoretical Contributions* - should present novel insights.
- *Empirical Contributions* - either in the form of original research or a literature review and should satisfy the usual scientific standards.
- *Data-based Generalizations* - are empirically grounded papers that aim at a bigger picture.

Submission Requirements

We envisage 15 – 20 high-quality articles for this special issue. The *Journal of Cognition* is an open-access journal that charges article processing fees (usually €1150 per published article). ESCoP has agreed to waive the fees for 6 manuscripts and we have additional funds to support those authors who cannot cover the processing fees from their own funds. Authors who want to take advantage of this option should contact Andrea Kiesel (kiesel@psychologie.uni-freiburg.de) by the end of July 2021.

We will have a strict acceptance/rejection review policy for the first round of submissions. We aim to avoid rejections after 1st revision and hope to avoid a 2nd round of revisions. Each paper will be reviewed by at least two peers chosen by the action editors. The author submission guidelines for the *Journal of Cognition* can be found here: <https://www.journalofcognition.org/about/submissions/>.

All submissions reporting novel data must make the data publicly available, or explicitly state why this is not possible in the manuscript. Initial submission must have at least a placeholder statement included that indicates where the data and materials may be found, even if access is not currently set up at the time the manuscript is submitted.

In addition, it is imperative that authors mention the special collection title, “*Core mechanisms in Action Control: Binding and Retrieval*”, in their cover letter to ensure the manuscript is sent to the correct action editor team (please note that the system names Andrea Kiesel only due to technical reasons).

Production timetable and deadlines:

Fund request deadline (July 31, 2021)

Submission deadline (December 21, 2021)

Review and feedback deadline (March 22, 2022)

Review and acceptance/final decision deadline (June 22, 2022)

We know that this is a tight schedule, which will require some effort and discipline to meet. If you intend to contribute an article to this special issue, please let us know by the end of July 2021 at the latest (send email to kiesel@psychologie.uni-freiburg.de).

Should you have any difficulties with the deadlines or questions concerning the special issue please let us know asap.

We hope that you share our enthusiasm for this project, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. Please also feel free to distribute this information further to other possibly interested colleagues in the field.

Yours sincerely,
Andrea Kiesel, Lisa R. Fournier, Carina G. Giesen, Susanne Mayr, & Christian Frings