

In the spotlight

Theory-of-mind understanding in aging: Effects of early bilingual language experience

Bilingualism: Language and Cognition

SUTD Authors: Yow Wei Quin, Li Xiao Qian

The ability to understand others' thoughts and feelings (i.e., theory of mind) is essential for positive social interactions. Prior research suggests that older adults are susceptible to a decline in theory-of-mind abilities as they age. In this study, we examine the effects of bilingual language experience on theory-of-mind understanding in late adulthood. We tested 185 participants, including 105 older adults (aged 56 and above) and 80 younger adults (aged 19-30), using a task battery assessing theory of mind and a self-report questionnaire on language background. Our findings show that bilingualism, particularly learning a second language early in life may enhance theory-of-mind abilities and help protect them against normal age-related deteriorations.

This work provides new evidence that early bilingual experience can serve as a life-course enrichment factor and offer benefits to preserving social cognitive abilities beyond its known protective effects on general cognition.



“Our findings show that bilingualism, particularly learning a second language early in life may enhance theory-of-mind abilities and help protect them against normal age-related deteriorations.”

- Yow Wei Quin, Li Xiao Qian

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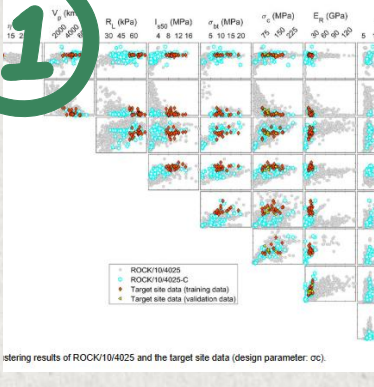


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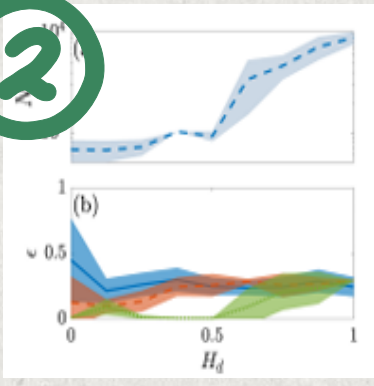
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Canadian Geotechnical Journal

SUTD Authors: Cai Yongmin, Phoon Kok-Kwang

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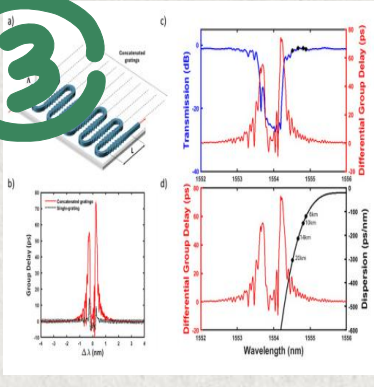
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Physical Review Research

SUTD Authors: Heitor P. Casagrande, Bo Xing, Dario Poletti

Science, Mathematics and Technology (SMT)

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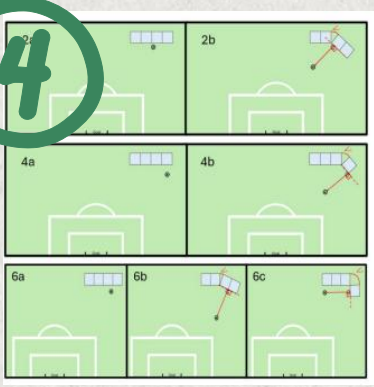
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Optics Express

SUTD Authors: Kenny Ong Y. K., George Chen F.R., Dawn Tan T.H.

Photonics Devices and Systems Group

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Reinforcement Learning for Reconfigurable Robotic Soccer

IEEE Access

SUTD Authors: M Shameer Ahamed, Pey J. J. J., S. M. Bhagya P. Samarakoon, M. A. Viraj J. Muthugala, Mohan Rajesh Elara

Engineering Product Development (EPD)

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ICT usage and perceived walkability of older adults: A walk-along study in Singapore

Cities

SUTD Author: Koh Eng Fei

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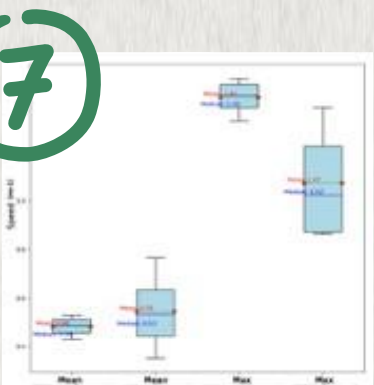
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Multimedia Modeling

SUTD Authors: Mu, Wenchuan; Lim, Kwan Hui

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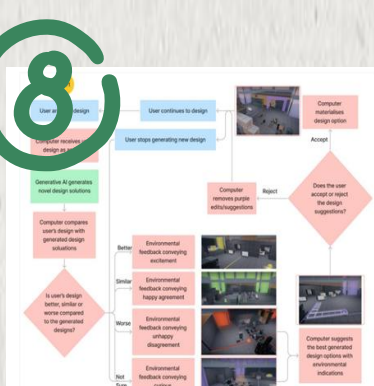
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2024 IEEE/RSJ International Conference On Intelligent Robots And Systems,

SUTD Author: Chen Gong, Malika Meghjani, Marcel Bartholomeus Prasetyo

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Virtual Reality Space Agent as a Socially Interactive Design Partner: A study investigating users' perception of and interaction with Socially Interactive Virtual Environment (SIVE) as a design partner

Proceedings Of The 12th Conference On Human-Agent Interaction

SUTD Authors: Sharmayne Lim, Daryl Ho

Computer Science and Design (CSD), Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD)

