

Cognitive control and bilingualism: Recognized challenges and ways forward

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Efficient use of two or more languages is assumed to require well-functioning cognitive control abilities, such as inhibition and mental flexibility. The massive experience that bilinguals have accumulated on behaviors such as language switching has been suggested to lead to training effects in domain-general executive functions. While general cognitive advantages of bilingualism have been questioned, it has become increasingly clear that even the underlying relationships between cognitive control and bilingual language are not yet well understood and that the methods and approaches for the questions need to be developed further. In this talk, I will point out methodological issues in the field and discuss new studies focusing on relationships between language control and cognitive control in the area of language switching.