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Cortical mechanisms of Loss and Recovery of Consciousness

Marcello Massimini MD, PhD





UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO detecting consciousness currently relies on probing sensory processing and motor ouputs





executive functions and motor outputs can be impaired in conscious patients...





...as well as sensory processing





consciousness can be entirely generated within the brain...





Modified from S. D'Alì "The dream"

...and we are saving many patients who retain large islands of cortex





50,000 unresponsive patients (VS) 300,000 minimally responsive (MCS)

All at risk of misdiagnosis!



Majerus et al., 2005 Laureys and Schiff 2012 A brain-based index independent of sensory processing, executive and motor functions



Neural correlates of consciousness: progress and problems

Christof Koch¹, Marcello Massimini^{2,3}, Melanie Boly^{4,5} and Giulio Tononi⁵







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Laureys et al., Neurology 2002



<u>level</u> of neural activity?





<u>level</u>of neural activity?



Bai et al., J Neurosci 2010; Blumenfeld et al., Neuroimage 2003; Engel et al., Science 1982





synchrony of neural activity?











synchrony of neural activity?



Pockett et al 2009







Kaskinoro et al. British Journal of Anesthesia, 2010









Alpha Coma







Alpha Coma







Alpha Coma



Nobili et a 2011

INTEGRATED INFORMATION THEORY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

IIT

PHENOMENOLOGY: CONSCIOUS EXPERIENCE IS, AT ONCE, DIFFERENTIATED and INTEGRATED



integration & differentiation = complexity

IIT

PHENOMENOLOGY: CONSCIOUS EXPERIENCE IS, AT ONCE, DIFFERENTIATED and INTEGRATED

integration & differentiation = complexity



integration & differentiation = complexity



integration & differentiation = complexity



King et al, 2013

integration & differentiation = complexity



Kaskinoro et al. British Journal of Anesthesia, 2010








































Causal Interactions vs. Temporal Correlations

Integration + differentiation



Causal Interactions vs. Temporal Correlations

Integration + differentiation

Independent of inputs & outputs













TMS/EEG: A set-up for non-invasive cortical stimulation and recording





0 ms











NREM















NREM













NREM













NREM













NREM































Massimini et al Science, 2005; Massimini et al., PNAS 2007











Massimini et al Science, 2005; Massimini et al., PNAS 2007

Massimini et al., Cogn. Neurosci., 2010





Massimini et al., Cogn. Neurosci., 2010









Massimini et al., Cogn. Neurosci., 2010; Nieminen, Gosseries et al., Sci Rep 2016


















A quantification: the Perturbational Complexity Index (PCI)

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Casali et al., Science Translational Medicine 2013;

A quantification: the Perturbational Complexity Index (PCI)



A quantification: the Perturbational Complexity Index (PCI)



A quantification: the Perturbational Complexity Index (PCI)



Casali et al., Science Translational Medicine 2013;





...





0.7 0.6 0.5 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.1 0





0.7 0.6 0.5 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.1 0





Casarotto et al Annals of Neurology 2016





Casarotto et al Annals of Neurology 2016









Casarotto et al Annals of Neurology 2016









CALIBRATION APPLICATION























Sleep





Steriade et al., J. Neurophys. 1993

Sleep





Steriade et al., J. Neurophys. 1993



Steriade et al., J. Neurophys. 1993

Sleep





Sleep







Esser et al., J. Neurophys. 2009
Wakefulness









Esser et al., J. Neurophys. 2009

Wakefulness









Esser et al., J. Neurophys. 2009

Sleep





Mukowsky et al., Cereb Cortex, 2007

Understanding the mechanismsm of loss and recovery of complexity

Understanding the mechanismsm of loss and recovery of complexity





INTRACRANIAL

Wakefulness

Sleep



Understanding the mechanismsm of loss and recovery of complexity: a multi-scale approach



Pigorini et al., Neuroimage 2015









McCormick 1992

Funck et al, 2017 Zucca et al., 2017



While structural lesions and disconnections cannot be reversed, it may still be possible to <u>restore complexity</u> by acting pharmacologically on neuronal bistability



Mechanisms of Loss and Recovery of Brain Complexity: across scales, species and models





Thank you!





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