

Is Time Special?

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Is “time” special? The answer to this question may seem obvious to a group of timing researchers at a timing conference, but the importance of a thing can be obscured by its closeness. In this talk, I will provide a reasoned argument for why the study of time is, in fact, special and why researchers can and should focus their attention to how the brain processes and perceives intervals of time. The title of the talk also reflects the internal conflict that many researchers studying time must face: since time is such an omnipresent feature of consciousness, of what use is there in studying it at all? Are we really studying “time” , or are we using temporal behavior to study other phenomena? This talk will lay out that argument and then proceed to counter it with the alternative view that time is, in fact, special.

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