

Towards more universal design in the art of magic

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Abstract: In the art of conjuring, as well as in cognitive science, potential possibilities for designing magic tricks that are suitable for people who are blind or visually impaired have only rarely been considered. In this talk, I will give a brief overview over previous efforts in this direction and discuss potential avenues for progress. Recent work of ours suggests that magic tricks based on systematic illusions in spatial imagery can be successfully adapted for non-visual presentation, and thus provide a promising tool for making the art of magic more inclusive. Much more can be done in this area, though, and I argue that efforts directed towards the aim of making magic accessible to people with blindness can not only make the art more inclusive, but also advance basic research in perception and cognition.