

Dear Dr. Lindsay,

I ask that the attached manuscript, “Temporal Contiguity in Incidentally Encoded Memories”, be considered for publication as a Research Report in Psychological Science. In the manuscript, I present the results of three experiments that test competing theories of the Temporal Contiguity Effect. The Temporal Contiguity Effect is the finding that recalling one memory tends to trigger retrieval of other memories that were encoded nearby in time. Some theories suggest that this effect is an artifact of laboratory tasks and should disappear under incidental encoding. Other theories, however, suggest that the effect tells us something fundamental about memory and should be observed under many encoding conditions. The results in the attached manuscript show that the effect can indeed be observed under incidental encoding, suggesting that the first class of theories are wrong. But they also point to some important limitations in the second class of theories. Thus, the results make two important theoretical contributions.

All data analyzed in the report is freely available to yourself and the reviewers at <https://cbcc.psy.msu.edu/data/Heal16implicit.csv>, and will be made publically available if the manuscript is accepted for publication.

In the online system, I have requested that Douglas Hintzman not serve as a reviewer. Given that the manuscript is directly related to work he has published, I feel obliged to provide a detailed explanation. We have a history of strong pre-theoretical disagreements that extend well beyond the issues raised in the manuscript. During the review of other manuscripts, these disagreements have proven to be contentious, inflexible, and irreconcilable. In my view, this history makes it difficult for us to provide unbiased reviews of each other’s work. In the online system, I have suggested several reviewers who are sympathetic with Hintzman’s theoretical perspective who I am confident can provide a critical, but unbiased, review.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Michigan State University  
Department of Psychology