













### Competition between engrams influences fear memory formation and recall

Asim J. Rashid, Chen Yan, Valentina Mercaldo, Hwa-Lin (Liz) Hsiang, Sungmo Park, Christina J. Cole, Antonietta De Cristofaro, Julia Yu, Charu Ramakrishnan, Soo Yeun Lee, Karl Deisseroth, Paul W. Frankland and Sheena A. Josselyn (July 21, 2016)  
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Editor's Summary

#### How to link and separate memories

Engrams are the changes in brain tissue that store single memories. Neuroscientists can localize and manipulate them, but until now, little was known about how multiple engrams interact to influence memories. Rashid *et al.* examined how neural assemblies in an area called the lateral amygdala interact. If two frightening events occurred within 6 hours, the same set of neurons was used to express fear memories for both events. However, if the events were separated by 24 hours, distinct memory traces were formed.

*Science*, this issue p. 383

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