

Online Supplemental Material for On Episodic Memory in Experiential Learning via Flightcrew Training Simulations

Nathan A. Sonnenfeld, Blake Nguyen, Caroline Gomez, Florian G. Jentsch, Stephen M. Fiore

Institute for Simulation & Training, University of Central Florida

Orlando, Florida

nsonnenf@ucf.edu, blake.nguyen@ucf.edu, ca077242@ucf.edu, florian.jentsch@ucf.edu, sfiore@ucf.edu

APPENDIX A: 4E COGNITION

This appendix includes a resource (**Table 1**), adapted from McGowin et al. (2023), which defines the features of embedded, embodied, enactive, and extended (4E) cognition according to Schiavio and Van der Schyff (2018).

Table 1: 4E Cognition Definitions—Adapted from McGowin et al. (2023)

Name	Definition
Embedded Cognition	“Cognition is not an isolated event separated from the agent’s ecological niche. Instead, it displays layers of co-determination with physical, social, and cultural aspects of the world.” (Schiavio & Van der Schyff, 2018, p. 2)
Embodied Cognition	“Cognition cannot be fully described in terms of abstract mental processes (i.e., in terms of representations). Rather, it must involve the entire body of the living system (brain and body).” (Schiavio & Van der Schyff, 2018, p. 2)
Enactive Cognition	“Cognition is conceived of as the set of meaningful relationships determined by an adaptive two-way exchange between the biological and phenomenological complexity of living creatures and the environments they inhabit and actively shape.” (Schiavio & Van der Schyff, 2018, p. 2)
Extended Cognition	“Cognition is often offloaded into biological beings and non-biological devices to serve a variety of functions that would be impossible (or too difficult) to be achieved by only relying on the agent’s own mental processes.” (Schiavio & Van der Schyff, 2018, p. 2)

APPENDIX B: DESIGN PRINCIPLES, FEATURES, & RATIONALE

This appendix includes additional information the design principles and instructional features for XR simulations based in the concept of episodic memory (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Rationale for EM design principles and instructional features for XR simulations

Design Principle #1: Optimize Presence in XR Simulations. <ul style="list-style-type: none">In flightcrew training contexts, particularly using XR, an important consideration is the salience of stimuli and of the episodic elements perceived upon which higher constructs (e.g., spatiotemporal models, narratives, etc.) depend. That salience being relative to the <i>fidelity</i> (e.g., physical, cognitive) of the training and the <i>immersion</i> (i.e., the degree to which the system provides inclusive, extensive, surrounding, and vivid stimuli; Slater & Wilbur, 1997) afforded by the given configuration (e.g., hardware, software) (Fiore et al., 2007; Jones, 2021; McGowin et al., 2021; Smith & Mulligan, 2021). This instructional choice impacts the salience of the episodic elements and the relations between them for encoding within EM (Conway, 2009), immersion assists with embedding the learners within the environmental and situational context and provides the sensory stimulation requisite of embodiment in the experience (McGowin et al., 2021; Winn, 2002). The salience of episodic elements within the EM system is not just a matter of the clarity of the stimuli, however, but also the meaning attributed them—meaning which is derived from enaction and interactions in the experience (Markant et al., 2016; Sauzéon et al., 2012; Tuena et al., 2019). Thus, the <i>presence</i> of the learner embodied within the simulation (Costa et al., 2013; Schubert et al., 1999; see also Mystakidis & Lympouridis, 2023), the requisite degree of immersion, and the <i>interactivity</i> afforded by the training configuration (Nilsson et al., 2016) become critical factors for supporting EM in experiential learning during these simulations—consistent with contemporary frameworks on learning using XR configurations (e.g., Makransky & Petersen, 2021; McGowin et al., 2021; Stanney et al., 2021a). While the importance of presence and associated constructs in XR simulations is not new to the literature, the alignment of this design consideration to the support of EM in experiential learning is hoped to provide a position for grounding its application in findings and theory from the cognitive sciences.To support this design principle, an applicable instructional technique may be to increase immersion through inclusive, extensive, surrounding, and vivid sensory information of the authentic environment (McGowin et al., 2023; Slater & Wilbur, 1997). This should be applied with caution, however, as there may be tradeoff between presence and cognitive load (Mayer et al., 2022), for different types of tasks (Dorsey et al., 2009), and at different times during instruction (Waterworth & Waterworth, 2001). Examples of ideal fluctuations in focus (presence vs. absence) and sensus (high vs. low attention) for conceptual and perceptual learning tasks across the learning cycle reflect the transitions of transformation and grasping from the EL cycle (Kolb, 2015). To optimize presence for the
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<p>support of EM, training developers may need to reconceptualize it as being dynamic within and across training events, proficiency- and task-dependent, and the result of design decisions beyond the immersiveness of the delivery medium.</p>
<p>Design Principle #2: Optimize the salience of meaningful information and stimuli in XR simulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because it is important to leverage trainees' activation/inhibition of sensory details in EM during the Abstraction and Reflection phases of EL, the salience of information and stimuli in XR simulations should be optimized based on the meaningfulness of that information for the given training objective. Task-relevant information and stimuli could be made clear during training (e.g., signaling), while task-irrelevant information and stimuli (e.g., seductive details) could be minimized during the high-load contexts associated with XR simulations (Howard & Lee, 2020; Mayer & Fiorella, 2021; see also Patterson et al., 2014). While these techniques are not new within the relevant training literature, the alignment of this design consideration to the support of EM within EL may provide further grounding for its application. One strategy that has been effective in the literature has been to increase the salience of relevant information through signaling, particularly for novice learners (Carroll & Sanchez, 2021; Mayer & Fiorella, 2021; Vogel-Walcutt et al., 2013). Specific instructional tactics that have been used to implement this strategy relevant to XR simulations include visual (highlighting, pointing) and auditory cues (e.g., volume, leitmotif) and the addition of task-relevant contextual information (e.g., annotation enrichment) (Limbu et al., 2019; Tan et al., 2010). Whether these cues may take advantage of learners' disposition for embedded or extended cognition depends on whether they are augmenting or adjuncting to the task context (McGowin et al., 2021; Singer et al., 2006); regardless, the implementation of these tactics during the Experience and Experimentation phases of EL lends support to bottom-up (e.g., assimilation) and top-down (e.g., goal-relevance) EM processes through the Abstraction and Reflection phases, strengthening elaboration and recall (Macchiarella et al., 2009). Thoughtful application of this design principle in XR simulations should be considered, in context with other principles of multimedia design (Mayer & Fiorella, 2021), to leverage the activation/inhibition mechanisms of the EM system.
<p>Design Principle #3: Provide graphical representations of conceptual information in XR simulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the centrality of visual representation in the EM system, conceptual information should be presented graphically rather than textually to trainees to aid in encoding and schema development. While the benefits of graphical representations in instruction have been well enumerated in the literature, the rationale for their use has traditionally focused on supporting WM functions and the assimilation of conceptual knowledge within the SM system. While the benefits of graphical representation appear to extend to XR simulation contexts (Albus & Seufert, 2023; Kao et al., 2021), their application as primary and supplementary instructional material in EL may provide additional benefit for the EM system, with a plausible rationale in the modification of element interactivity (with different visualizations reducing/increasing the instructional elements of a given learning task, relative to content and expertise; Mayer & Fiorella, 2021; Scaife & Rogers, 1996). Graphical representations (e.g., diagrams, data visualizations) may also function as scaffolds for schema construction (Patterson et al., 2014; Stanney et al., 2023a), leveraging learners' extended cognition, through computational offloading, re-representation, and graphical constraining (Scaife & Rogers, 1996). XR simulation environments may be designed to provide cues and other instructional techniques (Limbu et al., 2019) consistent with the principles of cognitive load and multimedia theories (Mayer & Fiorella, 2021) as necessary for scaffolding representation through the visuo-spatial sketchpad of working memory (Fiore & Nicholson, 2007; see also Baddeley et al., 2021). Specific instructional features for supporting graphical representation include the use of advance organizers (Vogel-Walcutt et al., 2010; 2013) and providing graphical representations at the embedded point-of-need within the XR simulation (Limbu et al., 2019; Stanney et al., 2023a). Trainees could also be provided with a means to manipulate or create their own graphical representations to support extended cognition (Kirsh, 2017) and self-regulation (Greene & Azevedo, 2009; see also Efklides, 2001) in support of EM.
<p>Design Principle #4: Support multiple perspectives of events in XR simulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As EM tends to have perspective, multiple perspectives of events in XR simulations should be supported to facilitate encoding and retention. In consideration of the concept of enactive cognition (e.g., McGowin et al., 2021; 2023), we suggest that designers prioritize the experience of learners from the 1st-person point-of-view (POV). Use of alternative perspectives should be considered as supplementary activities supporting the objective(s) of training. XR simulations may leverage cross-training tactics such as positional rotation (Fiore et al., 2005) that have been emphasized as part of line operational flight training (LOFT; Federal Aviation Administration, 2015) to apply this principle of multiple perspectives to facilitate team coordination outcomes, facilitating tacit knowledge in a manner by which semantic and procedural memory systems alone cannot account (see Tulving, 1998). Perspective may also be used in other ways. Observational points of view (3rd-person POV or otherwise) may be effectually used to onboard novice learners (Stanney et al., 2023a) or to support evaluation-level objectives by having the trainee take on the role of an instructor/evaluator in assessing their prior performance or that of another trainee or agent. Abtiahi et al. (2022) described how the use of beyond-real interactions including space transformations (e.g., scaling), body transformations (e.g., alternate morphologies), and time transformations (e.g., speed changes) may be used to support learner action facilitating the acquisition of conceptual knowledge, while McGowin et al. (2023) provided specific examples of how beyond-real interactions could be applied to science education from a 4E cognition perspective. In flightcrew training, manipulation of perspective through beyond-real interactions could allow for learners to manipulate visualizations of flight data to understand how approach factors impact landing performance, to adopt alternate morphologies allowing them to explore the interior of avionics systems, or to visualize the effects of duty time and rest requirements on fatigue over time. Creative application of this design principle for XR simulations should continue to be explored, drawing inspiration from extant interaction metaphors and mechanics (Jerald et al., 2017; see also Adams & Dormans, 2012).
<p>Design Principle #5: Provide supports to facilitate learners' SRL in XR simulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because the temporal bounding of EM is framed by the learners' goal system, supports should be provided to facilitate learners' regulatory processes and behaviors during experiential learning in XR simulations, particularly for learning experiences that are not otherwise directly facilitated by an instructor (Brydges et al., 2015). Self-regulated learning (SRL) may be understood in brief as a process of metacognitive monitoring and control concerned with goal setting and attainment (Greene & Azevedo, 2007; Pintrich, 2000; see also Goldberg & Spain, 2014), in which goals are both a product and the standard by which metacognitive evaluations occur (Winne, 2001). XR simulations tend to afford learners greater control and agency over the learning experience than other types of

<p>instructional media (McGowin et al., 2021); support of learners' self-regulatory processes may help facilitate bottom-up and top-down interactions between the EM and goal systems (Conway, 2009; Conway & Loveday, 2015) in support of training objectives, as has been explored in other relevant instructional systems (Goldberg & Spain, 2014; Goldberg et al., 2015).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System-initiated strategies have been found to encourage effective SRL (Azevedo et al., 2008)—particularly for novice learners—through tactics such as prompting and back-chaining (Fiore & Vogel-Walcutt, 2010; Goldberg & Spain, 2014; Stanney et al., 2023a). Strategies to facilitate learner-initiated SRL may involve using an SRL palette (Wiedbusch et al., 2021) and/or embedded environment/interface elements (e.g., instructional agent, notetaking system) (Dever et al., 2023), termed SRL widgets (Nussbaumer et al., 2014) that allow learners' to enact a broader range of SRL processes (see Greene & Azevedo, 2009), as they acquire metacognitive knowledge associated with their use (Wiedbusch et al., 2021). Regardless of the instructional features used to implement this design principle, the design goal is to provide, within XR simulations, supports necessary for facilitating and assessing learners' strategic planning (e.g., goal setting; time/effort planning), monitoring (e.g., self-assessment), enactment (e.g., searching, notetaking, summarizing), and adapting (e.g., help-seeking, context control) of learning processes (Greene & Azevedo, 2009; Roscoe & Craig, 2022; see also Brydges et al., 2015) to influence the framing and temporal bounding of episodes (Conway, 2009; Conway & Loveday, 2015; Efklides, 2001), leveraging learners' extended cognition by scaffolding or otherwise offloading facets of cognition within the learning environment (McGowin et al., 2023; see also Goldberg et al., 2015). 	
<p>Design Principle #6: Retain spatiotemporal realism through interaction fidelity in XR simulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the temporal order and linearity of the EM system, XR simulations should be designed to retain spatiotemporal realism in activities directly related to the training objective—leveraging embodiment and enaction (McGowin et al., 2023) to support learners' understanding of spatiotemporal relations among episodic elements in the simulated environment (Andonovski, 2022; Conway, 2009). This design principle grounds the concept of transfer appropriate processing during experiential learning (Fiore et al., 2007; Jones, 2021; Rugg et al., 2008) within the observed function and characteristics of the EM system (Conway, 2009; Conway & Loveday, 2015). • Instructional features for implementing this design principle may include providing a self-avatar and supporting learners with control over their movements within the XR simulation (Gonzalez-Franco et al., 2020; McGowin et al., 2023). A specific tactic for implementing this strategy could include ensuring interaction fidelity (e.g., biomechanical symmetry) between psychomotor movements in the XR simulation with those of the real environment (McMahan, 2011; McMahan et al., 2016)—by requiring, for example, trainees to use different realistic movements to flip switches, turn dials, and press buttons (Paul, 2023), as a re-specification of Caro's (1988) concept of <i>mediators</i> in context of the affordances provided XR simulations (see also Cordell, 1991; Moroney & Lilienthal, 2009; Williams & Blanchard, 1995). That is, tactile feedback may not be required for procedural task objectives—but retaining spatiotemporal realism through the interactive fidelity of psychomotor movements (McMahan, 2011; McMahan et al., 2016) may support the effectiveness of XR configurations for training physical tasks (Kaplan et al., 2021) as grounded within the functions and characteristics of the EM system (e.g., temporal linearity; experiential summaries; Conway, 2009). 	<p>Design Principle #7: Provide trainees with access to comprehensive case libraries of XR simulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the need to facilitate trainees' retention of meaningful information throughout the EL cycle to address the rapid forgetting of experiential details during the process of semantic assimilation and proceduralization (Anderson, 1981; Conway, 2009; Fiore & Nicholson, 2007), we suggest that developers should provide trainees with access to comprehensive case libraries of XR simulations for related to the target objectives and tasks. Other directly actionable guidance to mitigate forgetting in the acquisition of knowledge and skill and across the training footprint have been prevalent throughout the literature (Vogel-Walcutt et al., 2010; 2013; see also Hoffman et al., 2013; Stanney et al., 2023a). While thoughtful integration of these various features is crucial for supporting episodic recall, a pressing issue for the flightcrew training community in the current zeitgeist is the avoidance of using XR simulations as isolated “one-off” training experiences and the advancement of integration and collaboration in the use of XR simulations to support the pilot training pipeline. To effectually implement the strategies discussed in the literature across the flightcrew training footprint (e.g., Stanney et al., 2023a), air carriers and other flightcrew training stakeholders should encourage the development of comprehensive case libraries that allow trainees to attain proficiency in a set of training objectives. Trainees should have access to training experiences to help them advance from initial training (e.g., remembering concepts, system components, and procedures) through competency (e.g., resolving simple/common task scenarios) to expert proficiency (e.g., resolving rare, novel, and complex task scenarios) with the opportunity for interleaved whole-task practice to promote retention (Hoffman et al., 2013; Stanney et al., 2023a; Vogel-Walcutt et al., 2013). • The current state of XR simulations implementation in commercial flightcrew training has similarities to the state of LOS training in the 90s. XR simulation developers manually create singular scripted scenarios for XR training—each separately conceived, developed, and tested by the training organization. With a limited scope of XR training simulations for use in the air carrier industry, the cost, time, and risk of training and training development, such that air carriers may again discard existing XR simulations as they become familiar to trainees, replacing them with new versions. The flightcrew training community may wish to avoid repeating this situation. A solution was previously addressed through the development of tools to generate rapidly reconfigurable LOE scenarios (Bowers & Jentsch, 2004), the underlying concepts of which remain extant in current aviation training practices (e.g., The Boeing Company, 2023; FAA, 2015). As emerging technologies (e.g., digital twins, artificial intelligence) now vastly accelerate production of XR simulation training assets and environments (Katano et al., 2023; Long, 2022; Stanney et al., 2023b) applicable to flightcrew training contexts across a variety of use-cases (Nguyen et al., in press) a similar paradigm should be adopted to (1) leverage the increased availability of experiential learning across the training footprint as supported by XR systems, (2) enable trainees to access XR simulation training of an appropriate quality and breadth in their progression from novice to expert proficiency and in recurrent training, and (3) mitigate the financial costs and risks of developing standalone XR training solutions.
<p>Design Principle #8: Use narrative techniques to frame events and support schema development in XR simulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the EM system may be understood to ground (bottom-up) and framed by (top-down) higher-order cognitive functions such as the goal system and the conceptual-self (Conway, 2009; Conway & Loveday, 2015), designers should leverage top-down and bottom-up EM processes in the Reflection and Abstraction phases of EL by using narrative instructional techniques in XR simulations to frame events and support schema development. While the air carrier training community is well familiarized with approaches such as EBT/SBT which systematically decompose operational narratives into training events and content (e.g., Fowlkes, 1998; Longridge, 1997; Oser, 1999), the connection that these implementations have not previously been grounded. 	

- Specifically, the use of SBT as a narrative technique may be understood to provide a structure for ensuring the use of a combination of perspective, experiential processing, visual representation, and goal-relevant temporal bounding in simulation-based experiential learning (Fiore & Nicholson, 2007; Fiore et al., 2005), leveraging learners' embedded cognition (McGowin et al., 2023; Stanney et al., 2023a). Furthermore, systematic use of briefing/debriefing (Bowers et al., 2013; Fiore & Nicholson, 2007; Fiore et al., 2005) in LOS methodologies may be viewed in an EM context support bottom-up (episodic-to-self/autobiographical) and top-down (self/autobiographical-to-episodic) influences on the EM system (respectively, chunking of episodic elements into personal narrative summaries, and filtering of goal-relevant and personally-relevant information) (Conway, 2009; Conway & Loveday, 2015). Guidance for LOS briefing/debriefing encourage actions in support of narrative co-creation (Conway, 2009; Ochs & Capps, 1996), in which narrative elements such as dialogue are used to provide the context for learners to reflect upon (chunking) and abstract (assimilate) through the EL cycle. Dialogue, perspective, story, and other narrative elements have long been employed to facilitate pilots' acquisition and dissemination of experiential, tacit knowledge—not only through scenario events and briefing/debriefing, but through facets of instruction including mentoring (Liulevicius et al., 2011; Mauro & Barshi, 2003), hangar talk/war stories (Chappell & Mitchell, 1997; Kearns & Sutton, 2013), reflection (Carroll & Sanchez, 2021; O'Hare et al., 2009), and incident reporting (Huddleston & Harris, 2006; Linde, 2001), among other examples (Carim et al., 2016), arguably leveraging learners' capacity for extended cognition in social contexts (McGowin et al., 2023; see also Brown, 2020; Lyre, 2018; Sutton et al., 2010; cf. Wiltshire et al., 2015).. Given that the scholarly work of Conway (2009) and others (e.g., Ochs & Capps, 1996) have provided a lens for understanding the relationship between narrative and the EM system, and that flightcrew training practices have demonstrated the value of narrative techniques and elements in support of the acquisition of tacit knowledge and simulation training effectiveness, developers and researchers should explore different ways of implementing narrative techniques and elements within XR simulations.

Design Principle #9: Encourage retrospection and prospection in support of XR simulations.

- In support of the recollective experience of EM, designers should encourage retrospection (e.g., reflection) and prospection (e.g., mental simulation) during the Reflection phase of EL in support of training using XR simulations. Reflection and retrospection are a cornerstone of the EL cycle, and its application has been discussed throughout flightcrew-relevant training literature (Carroll & Sanchez, 2021; O'Hare et al., 2009; Vogel-Walcutt et al., 2013). Stanney et al. (2023a) described specific tactics for both reflection-in-action (e.g., situational dissonance; focusing on situational differences and discrepancies) and reflection-on-action (e.g., reflective observation; taking on multiple perspectives to analyze an experience) and others associated with metacognitive prompting (e.g., self-assessment, self-reflection) throughout the training cycle (Fiore & Vogel-Walcutt, 2010; see also Greene & Azevedo, 2009). Video (e.g., audiovisual recording, animation/replay) has been found to be a beneficial tool to support reflection during simulation debriefing sessions (FAA, 2015), particularly for trainees and instructors in offloading bottom-up EM functions (e.g., remembering the temporal order of events as they occurred) to focus on top-down functions (e.g., reflecting on performance relative to goals) (Kikkawa & Mavin, 2018). Other features for encouraging reflection could include journaling or learning logs to support this phase of the EL cycle (Schatz et al., 2012).
- Prospection—such as visualization, mental simulation, and mental practice/rehearsal—typically discussed in the training literature without grounding in the functions and characteristics of the EM system. has also been an encouraged facet of flightcrew-relevant training (Jentsch et al., 1997; Kearns, 2010; Schatz et al., 2012). One of flightcrew members' most important abilities is mentally simulate and predict the likelihood and risk of the outcomes of their actions under different circumstances (Jentsch, 1997). Example instructional features include guided mental practice through video observation (Kearns, 2010), and pre-mortem simulation, in which trainees imagine that a trained response to a situation has failed (Rivera et al., 2016). The mechanisms of prospective simulation are grounded not just in the theoretical characteristics and functions of the EM system, but also in findings supportive of embodied and enactive accounts of cognition and motor imagery (i.e., neural traces encoded during related experiences are activated during prospection; Jeannerod & Frak, 1999; Michaelian & Sant'Anna, 2021; Wiltshire et al., 2015). Based on this grounding of EL in the functions of the EM system, designers developers of XR simulations should implement instructional features supportive of retrospection and prospection throughout the training cycle (see also Fiore & Vogel-Walcutt, 2010).

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