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Brain mechanisms underlying cue-based memorizing during free viewing of movie Memento

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Designed research: JK, YH, IPJ, PT

Performed research: JK, YH, PT

Contributed analytic tools: JK, YH

Analyzed data: JK

Wrote the paper: JK, IPJ, PT, YH

32 **Abstract**

33

34 How does the human brain recall and connect relevant memories with unfolding events? To study
35 this, we presented 25 healthy subjects, during functional magnetic resonance imaging, the movie
36 'Memento' (director C. Nolan). In this movie, scenes are presented in chronologically reverse order
37 with certain scenes briefly overlapping previously presented scenes. Such overlapping "key-frames"
38 serve as effective memory cues for the viewers, prompting recall of relevant memories of the
39 previously seen scene and connecting them with the concurrent scene. We hypothesized that these
40 repeating key-frames serve as immediate recall cues and would facilitate reconstruction of the story
41 piece-by-piece. The chronological version of Memento, shown in a separate experiment for another
42 group of subjects, served as a control condition. Using multivariate event-related pattern analysis
43 method and representational similarity analysis, focal fingerprint patterns of hemodynamic activity
44 were found to emerge during presentation of key-frame scenes. This effect was present in higher-order
45 cortical network with regions including precuneus, angular gyrus, cingulate gyrus, as well as lateral,
46 superior, and middle frontal gyri within frontal poles. This network was right hemispheric dominant.
47 These distributed patterns of brain activity appear to underlie ability to recall relevant memories and
48 connect them with ongoing events, *i.e.*, "what goes with what" in a complex story. Given the real-life
49 likeness of cinematic experience, these results provide new insight into how the human brain recalls,
50 given proper cues, relevant memories to facilitate understanding and prediction of everyday life
51 events.

52

53 1. Introduction

54

55 In everyday life, an event one encounters may provide a memory cue prompting interpretation of
56 unfolding events anew from a different perspective. As if pieces of puzzle suddenly clicked together,
57 one may foresee how the events that one is witnessing will most likely unfold. Our brains have a
58 remarkable ability – upon a proper cue – to rapidly recall and integrate related relevant information to
59 make sense of events, and predict what happens next. Situations like these are also common when
60 following a movie plot. In a sense, movies are simulations of real-life events in compact form (Tikka,
61 2008). Memory for a complex life-like event is never a straightforward representation of the incoming
62 information and to comprehend the sequence of unfolding real-life actions it is necessary to interpret
63 them with reference to our prior knowledge of similar situations (Bird et al., 2015). Similarly, to
64 follow a movie plot, the viewer must constantly recall past events in order to understand and
65 anticipate upcoming ones (Kauttonen et al., 2014; Lerner et al., 2011).

66 Here, by showing our subjects the movie ‘*Memento*’ (director Christopher Nolan, 2000) during
67 functional magnetic resonance imaging, we expected to get a step closer in revealing how human
68 memory works in real-life situations. Specifically, *Memento* is a very suitably directed movie for this
69 purpose as it contains *backwards* narrative structure, i.e., the story is told in reverse order starting
70 from the *causally* or *chronologically* last event. The movie is organized so that at certain time points
71 of overlap the viewer is cued with information that allows her/him to recall and reconstruct causal
72 structure of previously witnessed events anew. Particularly important from our point of view is that
73 these specific time points are audio-visually identical repeats of previously presented events. In other
74 words, during certain exactly defined moments the ending of a subsequently presented scene is
75 *overlapping* - for a few seconds - the beginning of a previously presented scene. These audio-visually
76 and story-wise overlapping *key-events* serve as temporal “bridging points” for the reconstruction of
77 the story based on new information. In *Memento*, key-events work as audio-visual cues for the story.
78 As a previously seen key-event (*cue-frame*; first presentation) appears the second time (*key-frame*;
79 second presentation) the viewer immediately recognizes it as a repeat (“I have seen this part before”)
80 and mentally bridges, or re-organizes, the two temporally distant events as one continuous scene
81 (“These two scenes must belong together”). [See illustration in Figure 1.] Total 15 of such cue and
82 key-frame event pairs, which from now on are called *key-events*, exist in the film. Functioning as
83 temporal intersection points, these events encourage the viewers to update their current understanding
84 of the plot. We expected that these temporally defined key-events in the movie allow pinpointing the
85 neurocognitive processes that support cue-based recall (Ezzyat and Davachi, 2011; Hayama et al.,
86 2012; Hupbach et al., 2007; Summerfield et al., 2006) and reconstruction of events into schemas
87 representing longer pieces of narrative.

88 Methodological developments have enabled use of naturalistic stimuli, such as movies, during
89 functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of human brain blood-oxygen-level dependent
90 (BOLD) activity (Bartels and Zeki, 2004; Chen et al., 2017; Cohen et al., 2015; Hasson et al., 2004;
91 Jääskeläinen et al., 2008; Lahnakoski et al., 2014, 2012; Naci et al., 2014). In particular, developments
92 in multivariate methods have allowed extraction of fine-grained information in activity patterns
93 (Haxby, 2001; Norman et al., 2006). Multivariate approach has been applied to naturalistic stimuli,
94 e.g., to classify movies (Emerson et al., 2015), compare perception and memory scene similarities
95 (Bird et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2017), analyze shared response models (P.-H. Chen et al., 2015),
96 perform mapping between movies and annotations (Vodrahalli et al., 2017) and spatial alignment

97 between individual brains (Guntupalli et al., 2016). Naturalistic stimuli seem to create particularly
98 robust BOLD responses (Hasson et al., 2010), and one can use this, for example, to evoke and classify
99 emotional states based on distributed brain activity patterns (Saarimäki et al., 2016).

100 Here, by using *Memento* as stimulus, we set forth to investigate the memory functions
101 particularly related to cued recalling of previous events in order to make sense of the plot. For this
102 purpose, we took advantage of the key-frames and their special role to cue the viewer's memory and
103 reconstruction of the story, and studied if the key-frames could be associated with specific BOLD
104 activation patterns (*fingerprint patterns*) at the moments they were presented. We applied event-
105 specific pattern analysis and hypothesized that our analyses implicate brain structures that have been
106 previously associated with long-duration memory storing and narrative comprehension. Such regions
107 are medial temporal lobe, frontal and prefrontal cortices, hippocampus, precuneus, angular gyrus,
108 cingulate, middle temporal pole and frontal gyri (Bird et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2017; Dehghani et al.,
109 2017; Kauttonen et al., 2015; Nadel and Hardt, 2011; Oedekoven et al., 2017; Summerfield et al.,
110 2006; Wheeler et al., 1995; Yaffe et al., 2014). In addition, we assumed that the right hemisphere
111 would dominate the cognitive processes related to long-duration narrative comprehension, based on
112 previous findings (AbdulSabur et al., 2014; Jääskeläinen et al., 2008; Marini et al., 2005; Tylén et al.,
113 2015; Xu et al., 2005).

114 For a control study, we re-edited the original puzzle film version of *Memento* into a
115 *chronological* version, and showed it to another group of subjects during fMRI. The chronological
116 version contained the same audio-visual material as the original version, but all the scenes were
117 rearranged according to their chronological order, and thus also without repetitive key-events. Figure
118 2 depicts the timelines of both versions of *Memento*. Comparing the acquired fMRI control data with
119 the original puzzle film fMRI data allowed us to separate the effect of narrative structure from those
120 related directly to audio-visual properties of the events under scrutiny, further facilitating the
121 interpretation of results.

122 We aimed to study such situations that involve three neural processes: Cued recall, schema
123 updating and shared neural codes. Using *Memento* and event-related pattern analysis, we wanted to
124 capture the very moments of these three factors co-occurring during movie viewing. It has been
125 recently demonstrated using fMRI that during recall, originally encoded patterns (in first presentation)
126 are reinstated in fronto-parietal regions (Bird et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2017; Oedekoven et al., 2017).
127 These reinstatements retain information in transformed form and can be later recovered by cues (Xiao
128 et al., 2017). Individual memories can form *schemas* that are high-level, dynamically evolving
129 knowledge structures build on individual memories (Gilboa and Marlatte, 2017). They serve as
130 general-form reference templates against which new information can be compared. Prefrontal cortex
131 has an essential role in providing 'top-down' control to resolve the conflicts between existing
132 memories and new events (Preston and Eichenbaum, 2013). In particular, medial prefrontal cortex is
133 associated with conceptual knowledge integration, conceptual comprehension and assimilation of new
134 information into a schema (Kumaran et al., 2009; Maguire et al., 1999; Mar, 2004; Schlichting and
135 Preston, 2015; van Kesteren et al., 2014, 2013, 2010). Finally, shared neural codes correspond to
136 neural activity patterns that remain similar across (apparently) different stimuli, thus indicating
137 existence of conceptual similarities. Recent studies have shown existence of such shared neural codes
138 or substrates for emotions (Saarimäki et al., 2016; Skerry and Saxe, 2014), rewards (social vs
139 monetary; Wake and Izuma, 2017) and cognitive memory tasks (categorization vs. long-term

140 memory; Davis et al., 2014). We are not aware of any prior studies that have considered co-
141 occurrence of all these above factors in naturalistic setting, which is the main motivation of this work.

142

143 [INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE]

144

145 [INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE]

146

147

148 2. Materials and methods

149

150 2.1 Subjects, stimulus, annotations and data acquisition

151

152 **Subjects:** fMRI data from 17 right-handed healthy adults was collected, from which 13 (5 males)
153 datasets were chosen for the final analysis. Excluded datasets included subjects that had low alertness
154 (sleepy), missing data and/or too much motion artefacts Interestingly we also found high-pattern. The
155 ages of the subjects were between 21–31 years (arithmetic mean 26 with standard deviation 3). For the
156 chronological Memento (i.e., the control experiment), data from 14 right-handed healthy adults was
157 collected, from which, based on the same exclusion criteria, fMRI data from 12 subjects (6 males) was
158 used. The age range for this group was 20–40 years (arithmetic mean 27 with standard deviation 7).

159 All subjects were naive in regards to the stimuli, i.e., they reported that they had not seen the
160 film ‘Memento’ previously. None of the subjects watched both versions of the movie, that is, the two
161 subject groups were separate. The study had a prior approval by the Aalto University Ethics
162 Committee, voluntary consent was obtained from each subject prior to participation, and we followed
163 the principles of the Helsinki declaration throughout the study.

164

165 **Stimulus:** Subjects watched a 105-min long film Memento in a MRI scanner (6350s without ending
166 credits) in three parts. The storyline contains 22 color (COL) segments that are presented in the
167 reversed temporal order and 22 black-and-white (BW) segments in the linear, chronological order.
168 Color and BW segments are interleaved and their storylines merge at the end of the 22nd BW
169 segment, followed by the last color segment. In particular, movie contains 15 short clips that are each
170 presented twice during the movie. When appearing for the first time in the film we call them *cue-*
171 *frames*, and when they appear the second time, *key-frames*, cued by audio-visual content repetition.
172 From now on, we call the corresponding 15 events, each of which has different narrative content, as
173 *key-events*. Key-events had the central importance in the data-analysis and are discussed later in
174 greater detail. Figure 2 depicts the timeline of the Memento, including BW and COL segments with
175 cue and key-frames. For the *control experiment*, we re-arranged all 22 color and black-and-white
176 scenes of the puzzle (non-linear) version to create a chronological (linear) version of the movie which
177 included all 15 key-events as a natural part of the story, however, without redundant repetition. For
178 both versions, English subtitles beneath the movie were shown to ensure each viewer’s accurate
179 comprehension of the English language dialogue regardless of the background noise of the MRI
180 scanner.

181

182 **Data acquisition:** The fMRI images were acquired with custom 30-channel headcoil at
183 MAGNETOM Skyra 3T (Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany). Functional images were obtained
184 using a gradient echo-planar-imaging sequence with the following parameters: TR 1560ms, TE 30 ms,
185 FA 60°, 29 oblique axial slices, slice thickness 4mm to 4.5mm with voxel sizes 3.4×3.4×4.0mm to
186 3.4×3.4×4.5mm, matrix 64x64 and field of view (FOV) 22 cm. After removal of first 8 (dummy)
187 volumes, on average 4107 and 3883 volumes per subject were collected over three sessions for the
188 original and chronological Memento (i.e., latter one was shorted due to lack of repetitions and credits).
189 T1-weighted anatomical images at 1×1×1 mm³ voxel resolution were acquired at the beginning of the
190 first session. In addition to fMRI data, we also measured gaze direction data using EyeLink 1000 (SR
191 Research) system with primary purpose to evaluate alertness level of subjects during scanning. The
192 alertness was evaluated subjectively by a researcher observing the video feedback of the infrared
193 camera. Complete eye-tracking data was obtained from 7 subjects watching the original Memento.
194

195 **Key-frame annotation:** Annotation of original puzzle version of Memento consisted of total 30
196 timestamps containing the start and end point of the cue and key-frames (15+15, event IDs 1 to 15;
197 see Fig. 2). For chronological version of Memento, the same 15 key-events (without repeats) were
198 annotated. 12 out of these were also identical before the key-events appeared (i.e., parts of long
199 identical segments; see Fig. 1), while remaining three (IDs 3, 4 and 13) had visual differences, and 10
200 had visually discontinuous transition at the beginning of the key-event (see Supplementary
201 Information Appendix J for details). Timepoints were determined manually and fine-tuned up to
202 single-frame accuracy with automated frame analysis in Matlab. Together these 15 cue-frame and
203 key-frame pairs form the basis of *key-frame model* that was applied in the representational similarity
204 analysis (RSA) of original Memento data as discussed in Section 2.3. Five of the key-frames (IDs 2,
205 12, 13, 14 and 15) were discontinuous in the sense that the repeating scene was discontinuous, i.e.,
206 divided in two parts with a few second gap between. In these cases, we chose the segment with the
207 longer continuous part as the key-frame (latter part for 3 out of 5). Durations of the 15 key-event
208 segments varied between 1.9s and 13.0s (arithmetic mean 6.4, SD 3.1). See Supplementary
209 Information Appendix C for durations of key-events and their pairwise temporal distances.
210

211 **Behavioural questionnaire:** Immediately after watching Memento in the MRI scanner, all subjects
212 filled out the post-stimulus questionnaire where we tested whether subjects were able to recall
213 repeated scenes in *Memento*. Questionnaire was computerized and contained 30 color still-frames
214 from the film. Half of these still-frames (i.e., 15) were from key-events while remaining 15 were
215 randomly picked from non-repeating scenes (all from color parts of the movie). The subjects had to
216 choose if they remembered individual frames being repeated or not, and answers were collected into a
217 binary table. We also included those three subjects (2 for original and 1 for chronological Memento)
218 whose fMRI data was not included in the analysis due to excessive motion. Statistical analysis was
219 conducted using symmetrical binomial test (i.e., chance level 0.50) to each row (subjects) and column
220 (still-frames). Questionnaire also contained open questions about the plot and characters in order to
221 verify alertness and general understanding of the plot. Subjects were requested to answer all questions
222 in the form. For the chronological version of Memento in the control experiment the same
223 questionnaire was used. As there were no repeats in this version, none of the 30 still-frames were
224 repeated and questionnaire served only as a control. Even if the subject failed the behavioural test

225 (i.e., did not perform above statistical significance), their fMRI data was still included in the data-
226 analysis assuming it was otherwise valid (see Supplementary Information Appendix B).
227

228 2.2 fMRI data preprocessing

229
230 fMRI data was preprocessed using SPM12 (<http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/software/spm12>),
231 FMRIB Software Library (FSL; <http://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl>) 5.0 and in-house developed Matlab codes
232 (<http://version.aalto.fi/gitlab/BML/bramila> and http://github.com/kauttoj/fDPA_toolbox). The
233 following preprocessing steps were applied: Slice-time correction (temporal middle-point),
234 realignment (i.e., motion correction), anatomical and functional coregistration and normalization into
235 MNI152 space with SPM12 segmentation. After initial preprocessing, voxel-wise time-series were
236 detrend^{ed} (2nd degree polynomial) and cleaned by regressing out the following 14 nuisance timeseries:
237 6 motion regressors (3 axial and 3 rotational parameters), their first derivatives (total 6) and signals
238 from the deep white matter (5500 voxels for all subjects) and cerebrospinal fluid (up to 155 voxels
239 depending on the subject) regions. For the latter two nuisance signals, we used first principal
240 component for each tissue type (CompCor method, see 55). After this, time-series were temporally
241 high-pass filtered with 0.01Hz cosine filter (SPM's *spm_filter*). Finally, voxel-wise time-series were
242 z-scored independently for all three sessions to remove the effect of spatial intensity variation. In
243 order to preserve details of patterns, spatial smoothing was not applied unless stated otherwise.

244 Out of total 30 collected datasets (17+13 subjects), 25 were used in the final analysis. Omitted
245 datasets had following issues: Drowsiness (eyes closed continuously for more than 10s; 2 subjects),
246 technical problems (incomplete data; 2 subjects) and/or motion artefacts (>5% bad frames reported by
247 ArtRepair toolbox (<http://cibsr.stanford.edu/tools/human-brain-project/artrepair-software.html>) with
248 visual inspection of DVARS and framewise displacement timeseries; 1 subject).
249

250 2.3 fMRI data-analysis

251
252 We assumed that the neural functions of interest, mainly related to the cue recall, lasted up to 5s
253 starting from key-frame onset timepoints. In order to select proper fMRI temporal slides to extract
254 patterns, hemodynamic lag of BOLD signal was modelled with double-gamma hemodynamic
255 response function (HRF; SPM's *spm_hrf* with default parameters) with 5s onset-to-peak delay. Using
256 this HRF, we estimated BOLD response timeseries independently for each cue and key-frame event
257 and normalized their maxima to 1. Then we took mean over volumes with the estimated response over
258 0.5 (i.e., 50%) per event. This resulted in four volumes that were averaged to produce one volume for
259 each cue and key-frame. Averaging of volumes was considered necessary for three reasons: (1) it
260 reduces the effect of timing confounds caused by inter-subject and inter-regional HRF variation as
261 well as key-event related jitter (i.e., slice acquisition times naturally varied in respect to key-event
262 onset times), (2) neural processes related to higher-level cognitive functions (e.g., cued recall and
263 reasoning) likely vary between subjects and key-frames and their precise neural timing is not known,
264 (3) averaging improves the signal-to-noise ratio of BOLD patterns (Mourão-Miranda et al., 2006). All
265 analyses were carried out using group masks that included only voxels with valid EPI signal from all
266 subjects in the group (either original or both original and chronological version) and were part of the

267 loosely-thresholded grey matter tissue defined by the tissue probability template (SPM's *grey.nii* with
268 threshold >0.2 ; see Supplementary Information Appendix D).

269
270 **Searchlight analysis:** We used volumetric searchlight with the radius of 6mm containing 93
271 normalized voxels, which was considered suitable trade-off between pattern size and spatial
272 specificity. In noting, using other radiuses between 4mm to 8mm did not change our main findings.

273
274 **Representational similarity analysis:** Our main method of choice for the fMRI data-analysis was
275 *representational similarity analysis* (RSA). In short, RSA allows testing of hypotheses about the
276 representational geometry of events that can be characterized by the representational dissimilarities
277 (Walther et al., 2016). RSA models take the form of *dissimilarity matrices* (RDMs). We concentrated
278 on the BOLD patterns related to the 15 key-events (including 15 occurrences of both cue- and key-
279 frames, see Fig. 2). The hypothesized relationship between 15 cue-frame and 15 key-frame events
280 were expressed as binary 30×30 matrices, where distance between pattern i and j was $1-r_{i,j}$ where $r_{i,j}$
281 is Pearson correlation.

282 We defined two model RDMs. First was the *low-level model* where high BOLD pattern
283 similarity was assumed pairwise for the audio-visually identical cue- and key-frames (i.e., $r_{i,j} = 1$ for
284 matched (i,j) pairs). This model was hypothesized to be relevant for the brain regions that process
285 low-level visual and auditory information (i.e., primary visual and auditory cortices). The second
286 model was the *high-level model* where high pattern similarity (a common key-frame fingerprint
287 patterns) was assumed for all key-frames *regardless* of the fact that they have *different* low-level
288 features (i.e., $r_{i,j} = 1$ for all key-frames). This model was based on our hypothesis that underlying
289 memory (cued recall) and narrative-related (schema reconstruction) processing, which both can be
290 characterized as high-level cognitive functions, do not depend on the low-level properties of the
291 stimuli. This model specifically tests the hypothesis that key-frames are associated with a specific
292 shared activation pattern (common code) that emerges during key-frames. In other words, the high-
293 level model should pinpoint regions for which all key-frames (a) have similar patterns and (b) all
294 initial cue-frames have patterns that are different from each other and different from all key-frames.
295 The latter condition ensures that the common code – if present – is directly associated with the key-
296 frames. Illustrations of both models are found in Supplementary Information Appendix E. RSA was
297 performed inside *searchlights* where 3D spherical BOLD patterns were analysed from all normalized
298 voxels of the brain (Kriegeskorte et al., 2006).

299 We applied RSA to local BOLD patterns using overlapping searchlights covering the group
300 mask with 174k normalized voxels. Since the group mask caused clipping of some searchlights at the
301 mask borders, we required that each searchlight contained at least 50% of voxels (i.e., 47 normalized
302 voxels for 6mm radius) of the full searchlight (93 voxels). Pattern RDMs were computed from the
303 BOLD data using Pearson correlation, resulting in empirical RDMs which were then compared
304 against model RDMs (discussed in next paragraph) with Spearman's rank correlation (Nili et al.,
305 2014; Schapiro et al., 2013). This resulted in subject-wise spatial correlation maps (i.e., 1st levels
306 statistics), which were Fisher transformed and entered into group statistical test (i.e., 2nd level
307 statistics). Computations were done using a modified version of the Matlab RSA toolbox (Nili et al.,
308 2014). Modifications included optimizations and adding an option for permutation statistics (Mantel
309 test for RDM's). In order to test whether cue and key-frames were also associated with

310 increase/decrease of BOLD signal levels, we also performed voxel-wise linear correlation analysis for
311 the same timepoints that were used in the RSA pattern analysis (for details, see Supplementary
312 Information Appendix F).

313
314 **Sliding window analysis of patterns:** For each subject (s) and all voxels in the group mask, we
315 computed the average correlation

$$316 \bar{r}_s(d) = \frac{2}{N(N-1)} \sum_{j>i}^N r_{i,j}^{(s)}(d),$$

317
318 where N is the number of key-events and $r_{i,j}^{(s)}(d)$ is Pearson correlation between searchlight patterns
319 of events i and j for subject s with time-delay d seconds (i.e., window position) before. $r_{i,j}$:s were
320 assumed pair-wise independent and all $N(N-1)/2$ values were used (see Supplementary Information
321 Appendix B for details). After computing \bar{r}_d :s for both movie versions (denoted here as $\bar{r}_s^{(orig)}$ and
322 $\bar{r}_s^{(chrono)}$), we computed the mean correlation differences between two movie version data using
323 formula

$$324 \bar{r}(d) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{s=1}^N \bar{r}_s^{(orig)}(d) - \frac{1}{M} \sum_{s=1}^M \bar{r}_s^{(chrono)}(d),$$

325
326 where $N=12$ and $M=13$ were the number of subjects. As a result, chronological version effectively sets
327 the baseline for the correlations and allowed us to better isolate the higher-order key-frame related
328 neural effects (e.g., narrative comprehension and memory) by taking into account the low-level effects
329 (e.g., camera angle and scene changes). For delays d we used 2s stepping and for each step we
330 averaged three consecutive volumes (i.e., data obtained during 3.12s window) to create patterns for
331 analysis. Therefore delay $d=0$ s corresponds to patterns that were obtained from key-events (i.e.,
332 approximately between timepoints 0s to 3s in the movie). As before, volumes were chosen at the
333 highest HRF response locations.

334
335 Temporal delays (d 's) from -30s to 20s (i.e., 26 steps) were analysed with main interest on
336 interval -20s to 6s shown in figure 6. Positive delays >6 s were considered irrelevant for two reasons.
337 Firstly, the events under scrutiny in the two *Memento* versions were audio-visually similar only up to
338 the key-frames (i.e., on average up to 6s), not after them. In the original puzzle version of *Memento*
339 all key-frames were followed by transition to black-and-white segments which is a large audiovisual
340 and narrative change point (see Supplementary Information Appendix C and Fig. S1). Such a strong
341 audiovisual effect was found to create strong pattern correlations unrelated to narrative content of the
342 movie (results not shown). For these change points we could not separate the audiovisual (“low
343 level”) and narrative effects (“high level”) as they were tightly coupled. Secondly, the last key-frame
344 (i.e., ID 15) was located at the end of the movie stimulus for the original version, i.e., no movie-
345 related fMRI data existed after this key-frame event and related BOLD patterns could not be readily
346 compared against other (movie-related) patterns.

347
348 After computing $\bar{r}_s(d)$:s and $\bar{r}(d)$:s for all voxels, data was analyzed in two ways. Firstly
349 correlation maps were entered into two-sample permutation test (see below) to locate voxels with
350 significant mean correlation difference between two movie versions. Secondly similar analysis was
351 performed for regions of interest obtained from Harvard-Oxford MNI atlas with cerebellum

352 parcellation (Jenkinson et al., 2012). For each subject, we averaged and Fisher transformed voxel-wise
353 correlations over ROIs. Mean ROI-wise correlations for the original Memento were then compared
354 against zero (one-sample t-test) and against those for the chronological version (two-sample t-test with
355 unequal variance assumption). This analysis allowed easier inspection of region-wise temporal
356 dynamics of correlations. Finally, as an alternative analysis, we used Power et al. (2012) spherical
357 regions of interest (total 244) and hierarchical clustering method to study temporal organization of
358 region-specific correlations (see Supplementary Information Appendix G for further details).
359

360 **Statistical tests and analysis codes:** The 2nd level group statistics for voxels was done via sign
361 flipping (one-sample t-test) and group-label flipping permutations (two-sample t-test) implemented in
362 FSL's *Randomise* tool (Winkler et al., 2014). Null hypotheses were that the mean correlation (one-
363 sample case) and difference between means (two-sample case) for correlations between RSA model
364 and data were not different from zero. *Randomise* was ran for 5.000 iterations with threshold-free
365 cluster enhancement (TFCE) method to correct for multiple comparisons (Winkler et al., 2014). For
366 region of interest based analyses, we used standard (parametric) one and two-sample t-tests. Analysis
367 codes are available at http://github.com/kauttoj/memento_draft.
368

369 **Inter-subject correlation and gaze analyses:** fMRI data between two Memento groups were also
370 compared via voxel-wise intersubject correlation (ISC) analysis. We followed work by Lahnakoski et
371 al. (2014) and applied RSA and classification methods to voxel-wise ISC values to find voxels with
372 distinctive time courses between two Memento versions. Also, in order test if results from pattern
373 analysis could be explained simply by gaze direction, we analyzed eye-tracking data collected from 7
374 subjects that watched the original Memento in MRI scanner. Details for both of these analyses can be
375 found in Supplementary Information Appendices H and I.
376

3. Results

3.1 Behavioural questionnaire

14 out of all 15 subjects (12 out of 13 included in fMRI data-analysis) were able to identify repeated (key-frames) and unrepeated random still-frames from each other (uncorrected $p < 0.01$, binomial test). For individual frames, 22 still-frames (with 8 key-frames) were correctly identified as being repeated or not repeated (uncorrected $p < 0.05$). For the chronological version of *Memento* - where no repeats actually existed - 10 out of 13 subjects (9 out of 12 included in fMRI data-analysis) were able to identify that no repeating frames were present (uncorrected $p < 0.05$). For individual still-frames 21 were correctly identified as not being repeated (uncorrected $p < 0.05$). In conclusion, subjects were generally able to distinguish repeated and non-repeated still-frames although seven key-frames were not reliably identified by the group.

3.2 Key-frame model

Both the low and high-level RDMs resulted in statistically significant correlations in multiple cortical locations. Results are depicted in Figs. 4 (low-level model) and 5 (high-level model), with corresponding regions listed in Tables S1 and S2 in Supplementary Information Appendix A. Statistical threshold was set to $p < 0.01$ with one-sample one-sided using threshold-free cluster enhancement (TFCE) multiple comparison correction algorithm (Winkler et al., 2014) which was found to closely resemble alternative label-mixing (over rows and columns) permutation statistics at $p < 0.05$ (false discovery rate (FDR; Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995) adjusted; result not shown). Label-mixing tests served as an additional control for our models. As another control for the high-level model, we replaced the cue-frames with randomly chosen events from the movie (not keys or cues, same averaging scheme), which resulted in similar results, but lacked the low-level control. Finally, we also tested an “inverse high-level model” where the identities of cue and key-frames were switched, i.e., high similarity was assumed between cue-frames, but this model revealed no significant clusters. 3D statistical maps for Figs. 3-5 are available at <http://neurovault.org/collections/2292>.

As expected, the low-level model correlated mostly with the occipital (e.g., primary visual) and parietal cortices with minor clusters in frontal and precentral gyri. Clusters were symmetrically distributed without notable lateralization. Low-level model was also associated with correlated eye-movements (see Supplementary Information Appendix H). For the high-level model the results were different as no significant correlations were in generally found in lower-level sensory regions. Highest correlations were found in superior, anterior and subcortical regions with a distinctive right hemisphere lateralization (ratio 8:3). Especially the precuneus, angular gyrus and various parts of the right frontal gyrus were highlighted. For representative examples of empirical RDMs, see Supplementary Information Appendix E. Voxel-wise signal level analysis revealed statistically significant increase in BOLD signal in parietal and frontal regions during key-frames (see Supplementary Information Appendix F).

Furthermore, in inter-subject correlation analysis, that was not limited to key-events only, differences between two movie versions were found in various frontal and parietal regions, including precuneus and angular gyrus, however, without notable lateralization (see Supplementary Information Appendix I).

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[INSERT FIGURE 3 HERE]

[INSERT FIGURE 4 HERE]

425 3.3 Sliding window pattern analysis

426 In order to further test our hypothesis about the key-frame generated distinctive fingerprint pattern, we
427 performed *sliding window* analysis by computing mean pattern correlation over key-frames (i.e. only
428 the second repetition of key-events) in the original and correlating key-events in the chronological
429 movie version. Results are depicted in Figs. 5 and 6 comparing the original version of *Memento*
430 against the chronological version. Significant correlations (\bar{r}_d) were found for several delays between
431 -10s to 10s. Fig. 6 depicts results for MNI region-wise averaged correlations between delays -30s to
432 6s. Only those regions are shown that had at least one significant correlation for the original version
433 (one-sample t-test) and between two versions (two-sample t-test; both two-tailed at $p < 0.01$, FDR
434 adjusted) between delays -6s to +4s (marked with black vertical lines). Outside this short temporal
435 window, correlations were generally small and non-significant and were considered mostly as noise.

436 As expected, for temporal delays 0-4s (corresponding roughly 1s to 6s in the movie)
437 correlation maps of Fig. 5 were similar to those obtained previously when using fixed window and
438 cue-frames. These fronto-parietal correlations were not found for chronological Memento. There were
439 also secondary, yet weaker correlations, before the key-frame onset time. These *pre-key-frame*
440 correlations occurred for delays -8s to -2s (corresponding roughly -7s to -1s in the movie) and were
441 mainly limited to occipital (e.g., cuneus, lingual gyrus and supracalcarine cortex) and temporal
442 (middle and superior) cortices. Unlike key-frame related correlations, these secondary correlations
443 emerged for both versions of the movie, being marginally larger for the original. Generality and
444 spatial distribution of these correlations suggest that they were likely related to low-level cinematic
445 properties of the stimulus, such as scene transition and camera framing changes. This was indeed
446 found to be general phenomena and similar occipital cortex -centralized correlations were also found
447 for other timepoints with similar low-level cinematic changes (data not shown). In another, ROI-based
448 analysis, temporal clustering analysis revealed separation between occipital-temporal and fronto-
449 parietal regions with corresponding correlation peaks around -4s and 2s (see Supplementary
450 Information Appendix G).

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[INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE]

[INSERT FIGURE 6 HERE]

4. Discussion

In this work we used fMRI to study the neural basis of real-time reconstruction of one's understanding of a continuously unfolding story when presented with key memory cues during free-viewing of full-length movie Memento that has a unique temporally nonlinear narrative. We specifically analyzed high-level neural functions that could be associated with specific key-event repetitions (cue- and key-frames) in the movie. We hypothesized that recognition of a repeated key-event (key-frame) would prompt recall of relevant memories of the narrative events enabling connecting of the earlier scene with the on-going scene, thus facilitating understanding of the story piece-by-piece. We hypothesized that this would engage co-occurrence of cued-recall and schema-updating neural activity patterns in the brain. To our knowledge, this is the first time these processes are studied together using long-duration naturalistic stimulus. We used event-related pattern analysis to disclose extended "neural fingerprint pattern" network containing various higher-level anterior and posterior cortical regions with notable right-hemisphere lateralization. Our results shed light on what happens in the brain during fast-paced cued recall and schema updating in real-life like situations. In the following, we will discuss our findings in detail.

Low and high-level models

The *low-level* model served as a starting point for the pattern analyses. This model was designed to pinpoint brain regions with similar activation patterns between paired cue- and key-frames. We expected to see activity in the primary sensory regions that process the low-level properties of the movie. This was indeed found to be the case as the model resulted in high correlations mainly in the occipital and parietal cortices (see Fig. 3). Further, the eye-gaze fixation patterns were highly correlated during the presentation of the same clips (see Supplementary Information Appendix H). We also expected higher correlations in the primary auditory cortices, but this was not the case probably due to fact that the key-events were short (from 2s to 13s) and contained rather minimal auditory stimulation. This was also the case with the high-level model.

Next, we tested our main hypothesis with the *high-level model*, where we assumed that key-frames would activate neural processes associated with cued recall and reconstruction/updating of schema of the story. If this was the case, there should be common neural fingerprint patterns in the BOLD signal similarly for all key-frame moments. Indeed, the high-level model revealed network of voxels with high correlations in various higher-order (non-sensory) cortical and subcortical regions. These included precuneus, angular gyrus (ANG), lateral occipital cortex (LOC), cingulate gyrus (CG), as well as lateral, superior gyrus (LSG), and middle frontal gyrus (MFG) within frontal poles (see Fig. 4). These regions have large overlap with the well-known default mode network (DMN; Gusnard and Raichle, 2001) and also fronto-parietal control (Vincent et al., 2008) and core recollection (Thakral et al., 2015) networks. DMN includes mainly median temporal lobe (MTL), medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC), posterior CG and precuneus. Core recollection network includes regions that are consistently co-activated in association with successful recollection (King-Casas et al., 2005; Rugg and Vilberg, 2013): ANG, mPFC, precuneus, hippocampus, parahippocampal cortex (PHC) and MTG. Fronto-parietal control network includes mPFC, intra-parietal sulcus (IPS), anterior insula and dorsal precuneus.

500 Key-frame effect and neural fingerprint patterns

501

502 Our result for the high-level model indicates that a common neural process, or a set of simultaneous
503 processes, is executed during key-frames. This was confirmed with alternative sliding window
504 analysis where we compared pattern correlations against those obtained for chronological version of
505 the movie (see Figs. 5 and 6). Importantly, the key-frame effect did not depend on low-level audio-
506 visual properties of the stimulus, since these properties were highly dissimilar across the key-frames.
507 Further, as the key-events are not audio-visually related, the key-frame effect cannot be simply
508 reactivation (i.e., reinstatement) of neural patterns of cue-frames (encoding phase). Note that these
509 fingerprint patterns need not to be limited to key-frames only and can occur at other (subject-specific)
510 timepoints during movie as new information is revealed. However, we were only able to study key-
511 frames as they were time-locked between all subjects. We argue that key-frame effect and related
512 neural fingerprint patterns represent a *common neural code* similar to those found for emotions
513 (Saarimäki et al., 2016; Skerry and Saxe, 2014), rewards (Wake and Izuma, 2017) and cognitive
514 memory tasks (Davis et al., 2014). Recently Richter et al. (2016) studied fMRI activity patterns and
515 found evidence that memory integration processing state is qualitatively distinct from encoding and
516 retrieval. They further showed that this memory integration state was reflected in broadly distributed
517 neural activity patterns containing both frontal and parietal regions. We argue that our key-frame
518 effect is related to this integration and originates from a novel combination of cued recall and story-
519 related schema reconstruction. Next, we discuss these two factors in more detail.

520

521 Key-frame effect and cued recall

522

523 Memory traces are stored in overlapping and widely distributed networks and all cortical regions have
524 property of storing information with varying temporal lengths (Fuster, 1997; Hasson et al., 2015).
525 Previous studies associated to cued recall highlight medial frontal gyrus, posterior CG and MTG
526 (Polyn et al., 2005) and, more generally, structures of the DMN (Rugg and Vilberg, 2013). ANG,
527 precuneus, posterior CG and mPFC have been associated in the encoding and retrieval of episodic
528 memories and in a variety of high-level cognitive processes, e.g., decision making (Kim, 2010; King-
529 Casas et al., 2005; Rugg and Vilberg, 2013; Tomlin et al., 2006). Precuneus and medial prefrontal
530 regions appear to store context dependent information (Ames et al., 2015). Precuneus, frontal gyrus
531 (medial, inferior and superior parts) and angular gyrus have been linked to recollection of previously
532 seen film clips (St-Laurent et al., 2015).

533

534 PFC tends to be more activated especially for recognition memory tasks. For example, in
535 picture-based memory tasks middle-dorsolateral PFC has been found to monitor familiarity without
536 need for repeated items to be identical (Schon et al., 2013). In a meta-analysis by Kim (2013) it was
537 found that cognitive-control network regions (incl. dorsolateral and dorsomedial PFC and bilateral
538 intraparietal sulcus) showed greater activation in conditions associated with greater demand for
539 controlled memory retrieval processing. It has been proposed that posterior parietal cortex,
540 particularly ANG, is responsive for retrieved of information, perhaps by accumulating or temporarily
541 maintaining the information (Hayama et al., 2012; Vilberg and Rugg, 2008). The medial temporal
542 lobe has not only been found to be involved in the encoding and retrieval of past events, but also in
543 the deliberate imagination of future events (Addis et al., 2007; Hassabis and Maguire, 2007). Thakral
544 et al. (2017) localized recollection to ANG, MTG, posterior parietal cortex (PCC) and dorso-lateral

544 PFC and also reported that there was no difference between strong and weak memories, indicating
545 that recall – at least in these areas – is largely an automated process. In a study by Kuhl et al. (2014) it
546 was found that in MFG, mPFC, supramarginal gyrus and ANG reactivation reflected similarity
547 between a cue word and associated picture that had no perceptual overlap.

548 For the current study, the strongest evidence comes from other neurocinematic studies.
549 Recently Chen et al. (2017) showed 50-min movie in fMRI and found that free recall reactivated
550 patterns in DMN, including posterior medial cortex (PMC), mPFC, PHC and PPC. There reactivation
551 patterns were shared between subjects, suggesting systematic and generic representation
552 transformation of memories (i.e., schema construction). In a related study, cued recall memory
553 reinstatement was similarly found in precuneus, inferior lateral parietal lobe, ANG, MTG and middle
554 occipital gyrus (Oedekoven et al., 2017).

555

556 Key-frame effect and schemas

557

558 In order to follow a plot in a movie, it is not enough to remember individual events, but one also needs
559 to relate them to each other. Here, we call such higher-level structured memory representations
560 schema models (McKenzie and Eichenbaum, 2011; Preston and Eichenbaum, 2013). According to this
561 model, new memories are assimilated into neocortical memory networks (schemas) through
562 elaboration and modification of the network structure. Consolidation of incoming memories occurs by
563 integrating them into active, pre-existing memories via reorganization (schema modification) of
564 common elements within the cortex and hippocampus (McKenzie and Eichenbaum, 2011; Schlichting
565 and Preston, 2015). In this context, PFC has an essential role in providing ‘top-down’ control to
566 resolve the conflicts between existing memories and new events (Preston and Eichenbaum, 2013).
567 Successful encoding of incoming schema-related information is associated with enhanced mPFC
568 activity (van Kesteren et al., 2014).

569 It has been proposed that mPFC is the hub of a network that is implicated in assimilating
570 recently acquired information, initially dependent on hippocampus, to pre-existing schemas, which
571 can then be used to recover those memories independently of the hippocampus (Sharon et al., 2011).
572 Consistent with this notion, van Kesteren et al. (2013) showed that medial prefrontal activity is
573 predictive of enhanced memory for congruent information, which presumably is integrated into a pre-
574 existing schema. mPFC then helps to integrate distinct elements of memories, which can be abstracted
575 across events and experiences, a necessary condition for schema-based encoding (Schlichting et al.,
576 2015). mPFC has been associated with various goal-oriented behavioral functions, may influence
577 memory integration by biasing reactivation toward those memories that are most relevant for the on-
578 going plot. These concepts suit well in the free-viewing situation in our study.

579

580 Key-frame effect and DMN

581

582 A common factor for fMRI studies applying long-duration naturalistic stimulus appear to be
583 involvement of DMN, particularly precuneus and ANG (Chen et al., 2017; J. Chen et al., 2015;
584 Dehghani et al., 2017; Hasson et al., 2004; Jääskeläinen et al., 2008; Kauppi et al., 2010; Lerner et al.,
585 2011). Precuneus is known as a functional core of the DMN (Utevsky et al., 2014). Together with
586 cingulate cortex it can be considered as part of a neural system linked to narrative comprehension
587 (Whitney et al., 2009). It has been suggested that ANG serves as a “convergence zone” for formation

588 of complex, multi-domain representations assembled out of lower-level representations that are
589 distributed across multiple modality- and domain-specific cortical region (Rugg and King, 2017).
590 Furthermore, DMN regions (including posterior medial cortex, mPFC, MTG, and ANG) have been
591 identified as having particularly long processing timescales (J. Chen et al., 2015; Hasson et al., 2015;
592 Lerner et al., 2011; Tylén et al., 2015) and they are involved in large number of tasks including
593 episodic memory recollection, decision making, prospective thinking and schema knowledge (Binder
594 et al., 2009; Maguire et al., 1999; Mar, 2004; Price, 2012; Rugg and Vilberg, 2013; van Kesteren et
595 al., 2010). These findings suggest that DMN carries information about high-level structure in the
596 world that provides a schematic context over individual events (J. Chen et al., 2015). Therefore, it's
597 not surprising that DMN was also strongly present in our fingerprint patterns.

599 Lateralization of fingerprint patterns

600
601 Our results for the key-frame effect indicated notable right lateralization of the fingerprint patterns,
602 particularly on the frontal regions. This indicates the need for semantic integration of the story, which
603 was one of our key hypotheses behind the high-level model. This is supported by the previous
604 findings for narrative comprehension (AbdulSabur et al., 2014). Right hemisphere appears to
605 dominate in discourse processing (Marini et al., 2005; St George et al., 1999), or broader inference for
606 natural language (Jung-Beeman, 2005; Xu et al., 2005). Updating one's understanding of the plot
607 (schema) requires more cognitive effort than simple recall (Tylén et al., 2015). On the other hand,
608 majority of human memory studies that use non-naturalistic stimuli have reported dominance of the
609 left hemisphere (Johnson et al., 2013; Kim, 2011; Scalici et al., 2017), while for studies using longer-
610 duration, naturalistic stimuli results are bilateral or right dominant (Chen et al., 2017; J. Chen et al.,
611 2015; Dehghani et al., 2017; Hasson et al., 2004; Jääskeläinen et al., 2008; Kauppi et al., 2010; Lerner
612 et al., 2011). Based on the hemispheric encoding/retrieval asymmetry model and supported by various
613 neuroimaging studies, right PFC is typically engaged more than left in memory retrieval processes
614 (Habib et al., 2003; Tulving et al., 1994). Our result supports the view that fingerprint patterns do not
615 reflect simple cued recall effect, but instead a simultaneous cued recall and integration during the
616 rapid-pace narrative processing.

618 Synchronization differences and temporal dynamics of pattern correlations

619
620 Differences in brain activity between two versions of Memento were not limited to those related to
621 key-events. In our supporting inter-subject correlation analysis, we found that two versions of the
622 Memento resulted in distinctive temporal BOLD activations between groups in widely distributed
623 cortical regions overlapping DMN (see Supplementary Information Appendix I). These results show
624 that temporal order has a fundamental effect on how these movies are processed in the brain and
625 differences are present both very short (few seconds for key-frames) and long (minutes for complete
626 segments) temporal scales. This is hardly surprising given differences in cognitive effort when
627 viewing the original vs. the chronological version of the movie, as there was no need to connect the
628 different scenes via key-frames during the latter.

629 Purpose of the sliding window analysis was two-fold. Firstly, it did not rely on RSA analysis
630 and allowed comparison against chronological Memento data obtained from independent group of
631 subjects. Secondly, it allowed scrutinizing temporal dynamics of pattern correlations, which

632 pinpointed the key-frame effect also temporally. Interestingly we also found high-pattern correlations
633 already some seconds before onset of key-frames in occipital-visual regions (see Fig. 5). This effect
634 was observed for both movie versions. The most likely explanation for this effect is the camera
635 framing and scene changes that were synchronized as a side-product when synchronizing key-frames
636 (see Supplementary Information Appendix I). It has been found that scene transitions work as
637 effective modulators of BOLD signal (Lu et al., 2016). This view is supported by the fact that related
638 regions are all in lower-level visual regions. On the other hand, anticipation of upcoming key-events
639 could be also involved as the movie scenes follow each other in logical manner and are not random. In
640 a study by Polyn et al. (2005) such anticipation effect was found in the free-recall of items task, when
641 category-specific patterns of activity emerged around 6 seconds prior to verbal recall from a given
642 category, indicating anticipation.

643 644 Possible confounds and limitations

645
646 There could be also other, simpler, factors that contribute to the key-frame effect. If we neglect the
647 fact that the key-frames belong to an on-going movie and instead treat them simply as stimulus
648 repeats, we may assume that repetition suppression/adaptation takes place (Grill-Spector et al., 2006;
649 Segaert et al., 2013). Repeated and expected stimuli tend to result in weaker BOLD responses
650 compared to novel or unexpected ones (Grotheer and Kovács, 2016; Segaert et al., 2013). Notably, in
651 our univariate analysis we found activity decrease only in occipital cortex (primary visual), which was
652 not part of the key-frame fingerprint patterns. In other words, we found no evidence for notable
653 repetition suppression effect in areas involved in the key-frame pattern. We, however, found signal
654 increase in various higher-level regions that partially overlapped our fingerprint patterns (see Fig. S6).
655 This phenomenon is known as repetition-enhancement effect and has been found in, e.g., PFC, IPS,
656 IPL and MTG (see Fig. 1 in Segaert et al., 2013). The key-frames are not simple stimulus repeats, but
657 carry relevant information of the story (intersection points) and can be considered conceptually novel.
658 This can effectively nullify the classical repetition-suppression effect (Reggev et al., 2016).
659 Furthermore, the repetition interval is an important factor: Suppression is prominent only for
660 relatively rapid repeats (less than a minute) and can turn into enhancement with longer inter-repeat
661 delays of several minutes, like in our study. This type of enhancement has been found in the
662 precuneus, posterior cingulate and (right) dorsolateral PFC (Bradley et al., 2015), which also turn up
663 in our key-frame fingerprint patterns. Various factors can lead to enhancement, such as novel network
664 formation, selective attention and additional cognitive processing (Segaert et al., 2013). Given the
665 overlap between areas previously found to exhibit repetition-enhancement and the key-frame patterns
666 in the present study, repetition-enhancement could be one of the mechanisms responsible for the key-
667 frame effect.

668 At the same time, the main strengths and main limitations of this work comes from our
669 decision to use movie stimulus and uninterrupted free-viewing design. Having the real-life like
670 conditions can be seen as a strength, yet as limitations, firstly, we were unable to look into specific
671 coupling mechanisms of cued recall and schema reconstruction, i.e., are they equally responsive for
672 the fingerprint pattern or does one dominate over the other in the process and in what specific
673 circumstances. Secondly, we were unable to collect behavioral data, such as details of key-frame
674 events, during measurement. Thirdly, the number of key-events was relatively small (15) compared to
675 the length of the stimulus (2h), which was not particularly efficient and did not allow us to use more

676 sophisticated analysis (e.g., classification). Furthermore, as all cue and key-frames were short-
677 duration and treated separately in our analysis (i.e., in single-trial fashion), we could take no
678 advantage of multiple repeat design and GLM to estimate responses of voxels. Instead we used fMRI
679 data directly with averaging approach. However, as the long and complex narrative was an essential
680 part of our study, no simple alternatives existed; if more controlled (artificial) stimulus is used one
681 may deviate too far from real-life-like setting. This remains a challenge for the future studies.
682

683 **5. Conclusions**

684
685 Our results show that cognitive functions related to memory and narrative processing are reliably
686 activated across viewers and can be temporally pinpointed to specific key-frame events in the
687 narrative in free-viewing conditions. This was made possible by taking advantage of the nonlinear
688 story structure with repeating story segments (key-frames) in movie Memento and using event-related
689 pattern analysis technique. We were able to associate key-frames with a common “neural fingerprint”
690 activity patterns. This network covered various frontal, higher-order parietal and subcortical regions,
691 mainly precuneus, angular gyrus, cingulate gyrus and frontal pole with right hemispheric lateralization
692 bias. We argue that the main process driving these regions was memory processing, especially cued
693 recall, and followed by rapid reconstruction of narrative schema. Novelty of our study comes from
694 combining a continuous movie stimulus with build-in repeats with event-related pattern analysis. Our
695 results give insight to neural processing during moments of real-time reconstruction of one’s
696 understanding of a continuously unfolding narrative at the moment of memory cues in life-like setting.
697 In future, it would be interesting to test if our key-frame effect can be reproduced with tailored stimuli
698 that would also allow careful manipulation and measurement of relative weights between recall and
699 schema update effects.
700

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708

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Figure captions

Figure 1. (1-column, color online) Illustration of the narrative structure of *Memento*. The original (non-linear) version of *Memento* contains color and black-and-white (BW) parts with backwards structure and repeating segments. Short segments of the movie (*cue-frames*; CUE) are repeated later (*key-frames*; KEY), which creates strong links (arrows) between these events. Presumably this triggers cued memory recall and updating of the subject's concurrent understanding (schema) of the plot. The movie contains 15 cue/key-frame pairs.

Figure 2. (1.5-column, color online) Timelines of original (*orig*) and chronological (*chrono*) versions of 'Memento'. The movie contains 22 color (red bars with numbers 1-22) and 22 black-and-white (unlabelled grey bars) segments with 15 short clips (blue and green lines; *cue* and *key-frames*) that are pairwise audio-visually identical. Data were measured in three fMRI sessions (white bars) separated by short (<1min) pauses between. Note that the chronological version is shorter than the original due to lack of redundant scene repeats and title credits (magenta bar).

Figure 3. (2-column, color online) Result of the pattern correlation analysis with the low-level RSA model. In this model high pair-wise similarity was assumed between BOLD patterns that emerged during cue and key-frame presentation (see Supplementary Information Fig. S4a). Each colored voxel depicts a searchlight pattern centroid with significant RSA model correlation (one-sample one-sided permutation test with TFCE correction at $p < 0.01$ with 13 subjects). For the listing of corresponding cortical regions, see Table S1.

Figure 4. (2-column, color online) Result of the pattern correlation analysis with the high-level RSA model. In this model, high mutual correlation was assumed for BOLD patterns that occurred during key-frame presentation (see Supplementary Information Fig. S4b). Each colored voxel depicts a searchlight pattern centroid with significant RSA model correlation (one-sample one-sided permutation test with TFCE correction at $p < 0.01$ with 13 subjects). For the listing of corresponding cortical regions, see Table S2.

Figure 5. (2-column, color online) Temporal dynamics of BOLD pattern correlations at the vicinity of the key-frames. Each timepoint depicts local BOLD pattern correlation between 15 time-shifted searchlight patterns (6mm searchlight with 3.12s window) during *Memento* viewing. At 0s, all key-frames were temporally aligned with each other. All voxels (i.e., searchlight centroids) marked with red had significantly larger mean pattern correlation for the group viewing the *original* *Memento* compared to the control group viewing *chronological* *Memento* (control group with only cue-frames and no repetition). All eight maps were thresholded individually at $p < 0.01$ (two-sample one-sided permutation t-test for 13+12 subjects, TFCE corrected).

Figure 6. (1.5-column, color online) Temporal dynamics of BOLD averaged pattern correlations at the vicinity of the key-frames for cortical regions-of-interest (ROIs). Averaging was performed using Harvard-Oxford atlas. Each colored element depicts a mean pattern correlation between 15 (time-shifted) key-frame events, all normalized voxels (count shown in parenthesis) inside the region and over subjects. Regions are arranged according to peak correlation time. All 40 (12 in the left

1016 hemisphere) shown regions had at least one significant peak when compared against zero (one-sample
1017 t-test for 13 subjects) and against the control group (chronological Memento viewers; two-sample t-
1018 test for 13+12 subjects; both tests two-sided at $p < 0.01$ FDR adjusted) between onset delays -6s and 4s
1019 (black vertical lines). Mean correlation values were scaled ROI-wise (rows) with their maximum
1020 absolute values for easier visual comparison. Results for ungrouped voxels are shown in Fig. 5 for
1021 delays -8s to +6s.

Figure 1

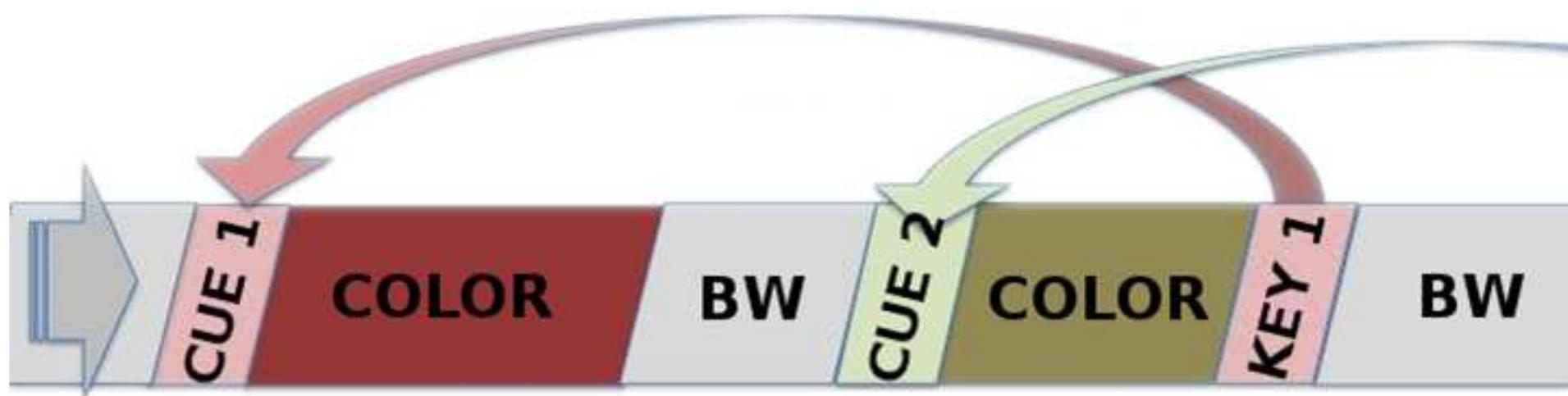


Figure 2

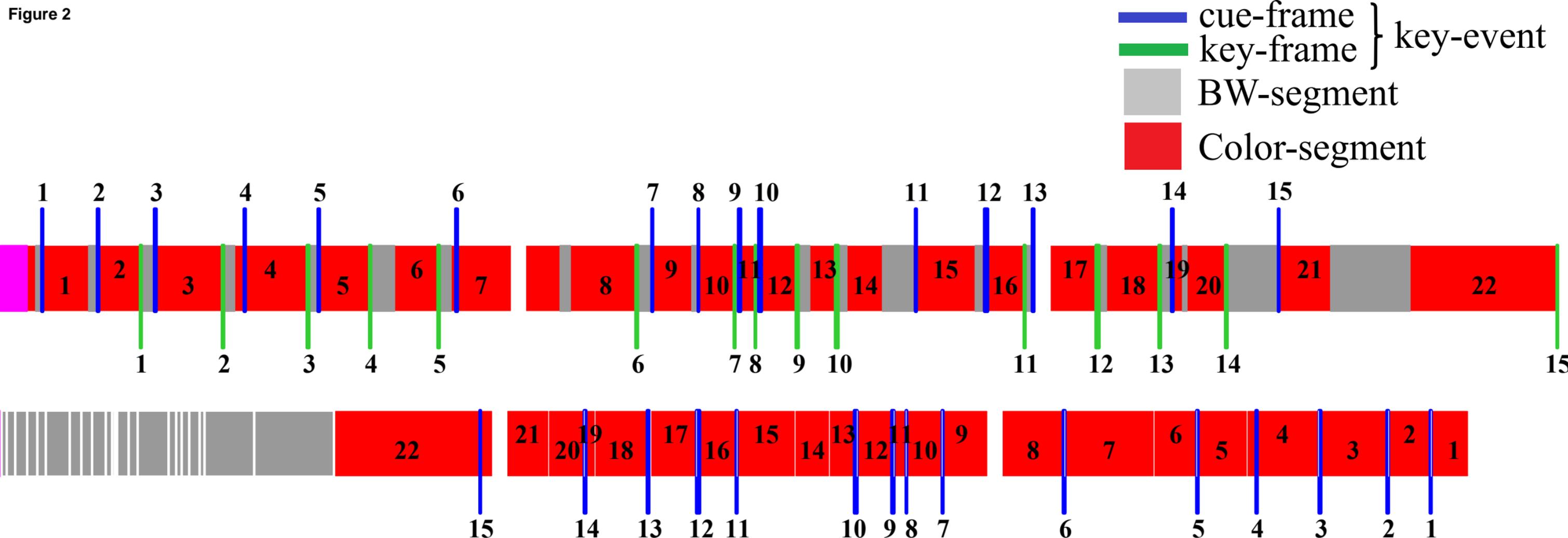


Figure 3

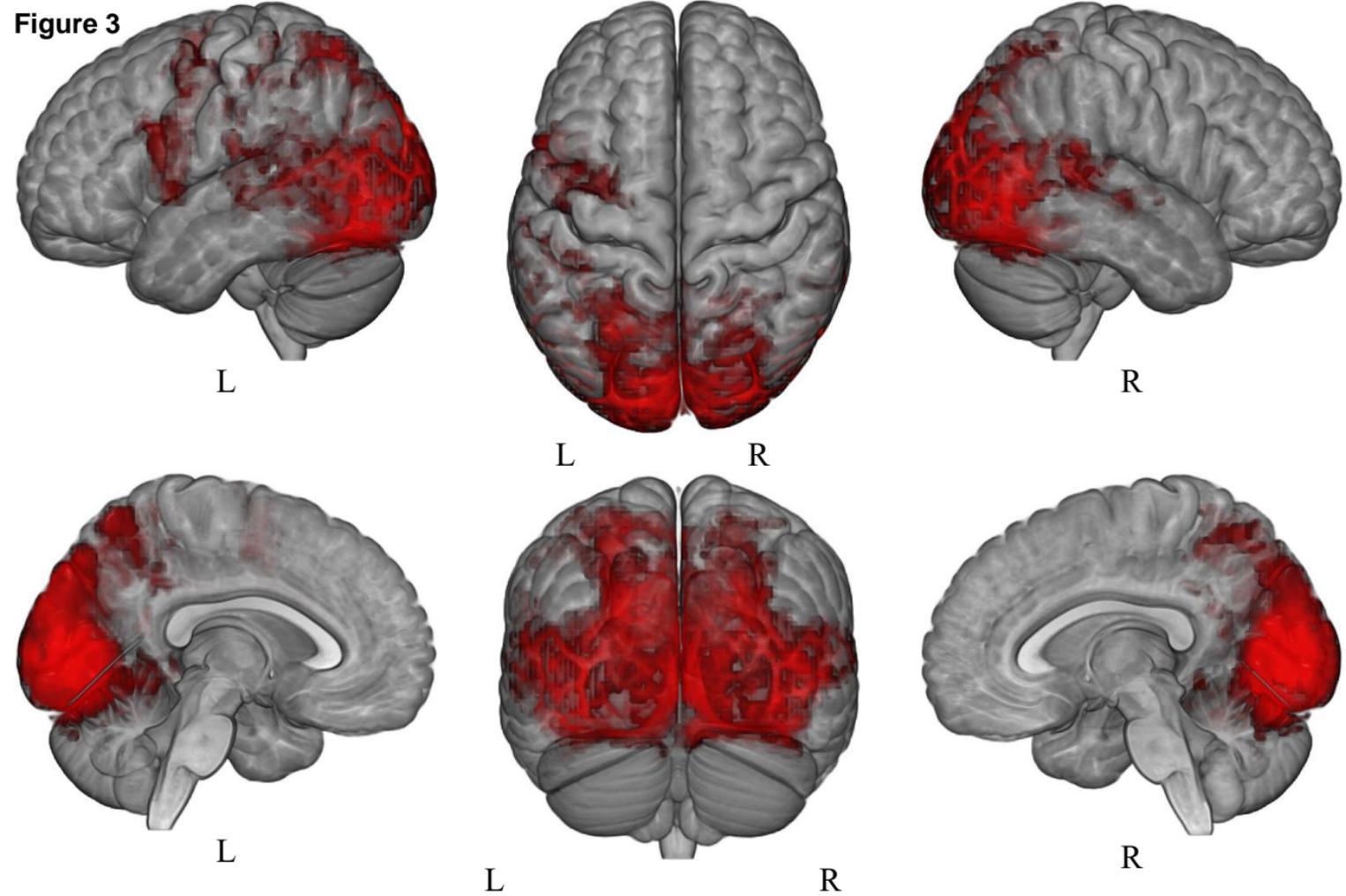
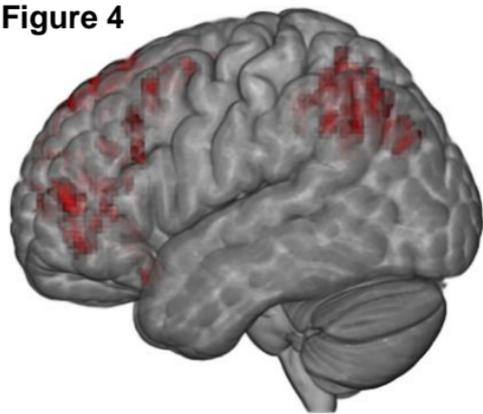
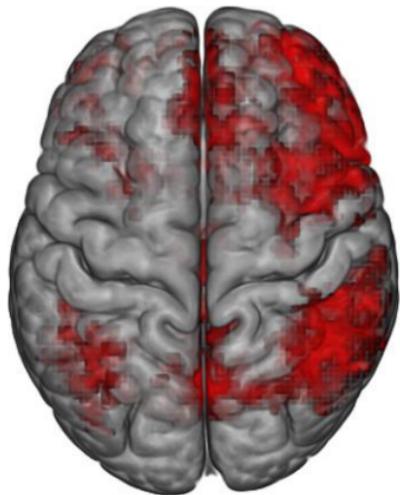


Figure 4

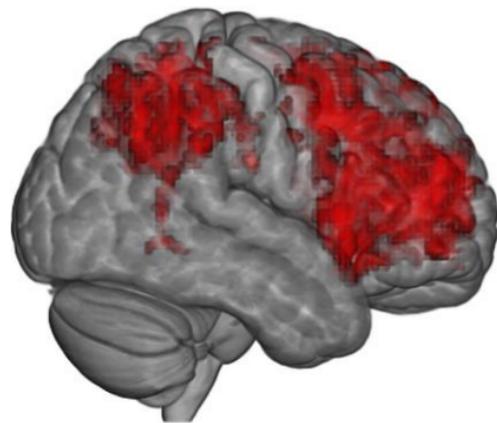


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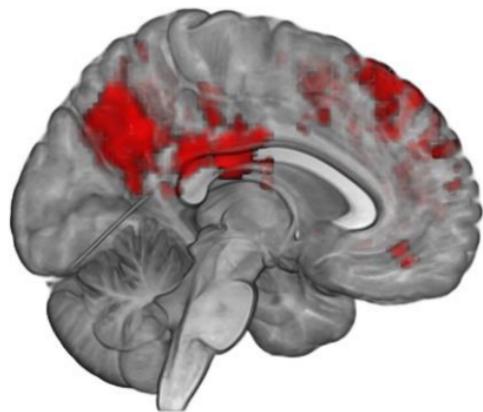


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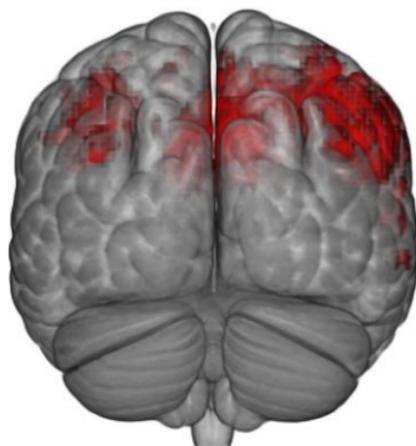
R



R

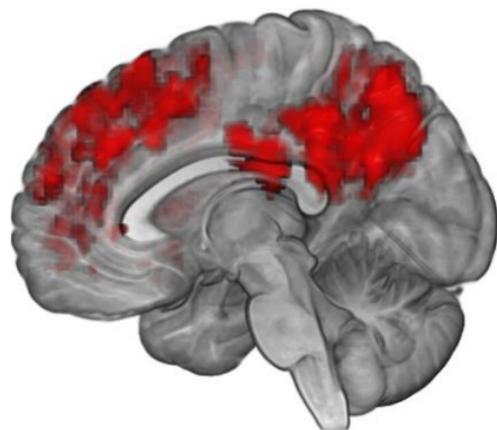


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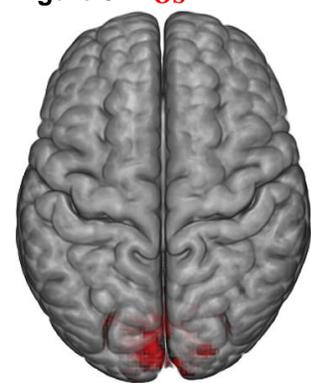
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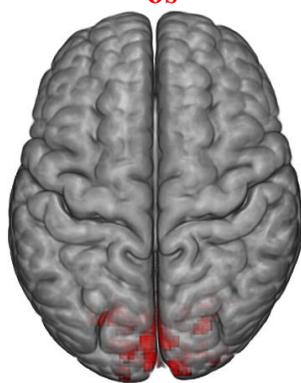


R

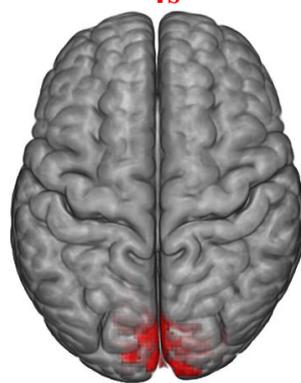
Figure 5 **-8s**



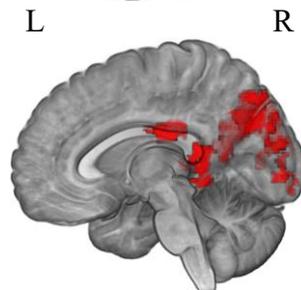
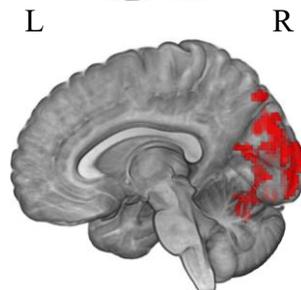
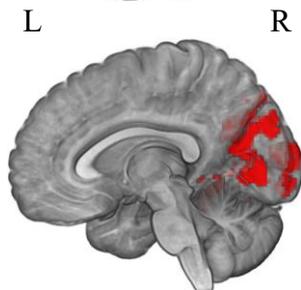
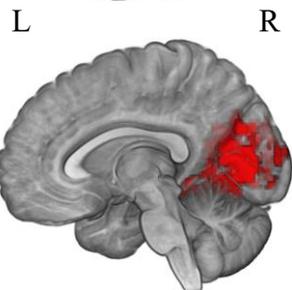
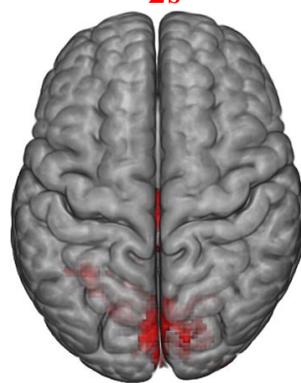
-6s



-4s

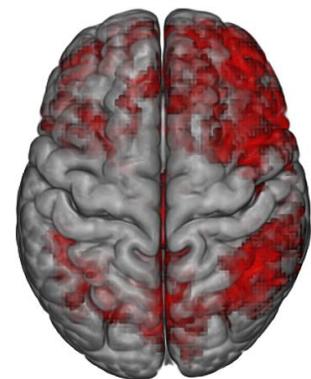


-2s



key-frame onset

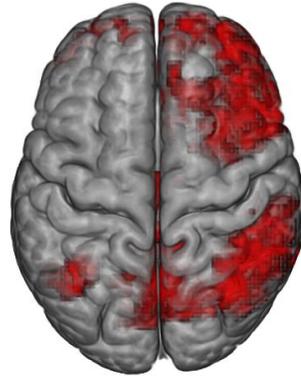
0s



+2s



+4s



+6s

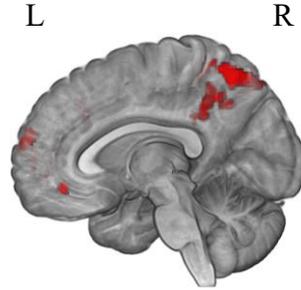
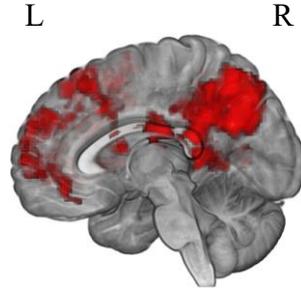
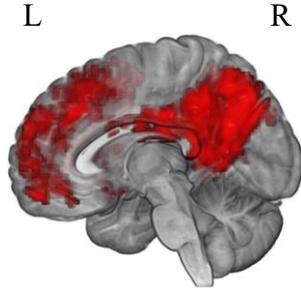
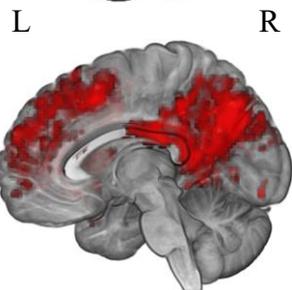
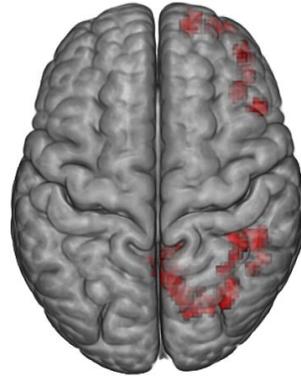


Figure 6

