Magic and the Brain (BSP 72)

ONION CAMPBELL, MD

Neuroscientists Dr. Stephen Macknik and Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde have an unusual hobby. Magic! Actually, it’s more than a hobby; since for the last several years they have been working with leading magicians from around the world to create a new field: the neuroscience of magic. In episode 72 of the Brain Science Podcast they talked with them about their new book, "Spectacles of Mind: What the Neuroscience of Magic Teaches us About Everyday Deceptions," which is the first book to explore the neuroscience of magic.

With the help of their co-author Sandra Blakeslee, Macknik and Martinez-Conde provide an excellent overview of this new and exciting field. This book also provides an excellent overview of many of the principles that I have introduced in the last 4 years.

Listen to Episode 72 (Right-Click to download)

Episode Transcript (Download PDF)

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Links and References

Dr. Stephen Macknik, PhD, Director, Director, Laboratory of Behavioral Neurophysiology, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, Arizona

Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde, Director, Laboratory of Visual Science, Barrow Neurological Institute

Spectacles of Mind: What the Neuroscience of Magic Teaches us About Everyday Deceptions by Stephen L. Macknik, Susana Martinez-Conde, Sandra Blakeslee

浓缩视频：https://vimeo.com/91377285

Magicians mentioned in the interview:

David Blaine: Nailed Prize for Illusion Research

Margaret Livingstone (Harvard): Urban Myth-Busters

Jochen Burgoyne (Carnegie Mellon): Orange Binders

Damen Brown (London): Memory Failures

Jack and Teler: Go to http://skepticsступил.com to see a video of the balls and slipper illusion discussed in BSP 72.

Magicians mentioned in the interview:

James Randi: Famous proponent of skeptical thinking

Juan Tanaka: This Spanish magician is an important magic theorist

Penn and Teller: Go to http://skepticsступил.com to see a video of the balls and slipper illusion discussed in BSP 72.

Announcements:

I will be giving a live talk at the London Skeptics in the Pub on May 11, 2011. Stay tuned for more details or visit http://london.skepticsступил.com for more information.

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