

GUEST EDITORIAL**Special Issue: Multisensory Perception****An introduction to the special issue on
*Multisensory Perception***

Kenzo Sakurai

Department of Psychology, Tohoku Gakuin University, 2-1-1 Tenjinzawa, Izumi-ku, Sendai 981-3193, Japan;

e-mail: sakurai@mind.tohoku-gakuin.ac.jp

Norimichi Kitagawa

Human Information Science Laboratory, NTT Communication Science Laboratories, 3-1 Morinosato Wakamiya,

Atsugi, Kanagawa 243-0198, Japan; e-mail: kitagawa.norimichi@lab.ntt.co.jp

Yōiti Suzuki

Tohoku University, Research Institute of Electrical Communication, 2-1-1 Katahira, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577,

Japan; e-mail: yoh@riec.tohoku.ac.jp

The annual meeting of the International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF) in 2011 was initially to be held in June, in downtown Sendai, Japan. Three months before the date, the mega-earthquake devastated the northeast area of Japan, and subsequent tsunami hit its coastline. Downtown Sendai is 15 km from the coast and was not significantly affected by the tsunami. However, it is located to the direct west of the epicenter, and the conference venue and the public transportation were so badly damaged that we could not expect then their recovery in time. Therefore, we decided to postpone the conference and move its location; the meeting was held on October 17–20 in Fukuoka, Japan. Although a few delegates could not attend the conference with new date and location, IMRF2011 was successful with presentations all relating to multisensory research by researchers from a wide range of disciplines. We are delighted that this special issue is published in *i-Perception*, the first time for the IMRF. Contributions to the conference on various aspects of multisensory perception resulted in seven articles in this special issue.

The first three papers report studies on the interaction between two sensory inputs, for example, audiovisual integration. Leone and McCourt (2013) revealed a new aspect of facilitative audiovisual integration that disagrees with the well-known idea of inverse effectiveness. Tanabe and Iwaki (2013) found perceptual effects of visual spatial information on auditory temporal order judgments and simultaneity judgments. Speech-oriented research by Spector and Maurer (2013) suggested naturally biased correspondences between vowel sound and shape, investigating the influence of vowels on sound–shape matching in toddlers.

The second aspect addresses multisensory situations involving a dynamic perceiver. The interaction between body movement and other major senses has attracted increasing interest, particularly those researchers who are familiar with virtual reality technologies. On visuo-motor coordination, Kitazaki (2013) revealed that visuo-motor adaptation was transferable from right to left, between upper and lower, between central and peripheral visual fields. On auditory–motor coordination, Honda et al. (2013) showed that free head movements and proprioceptive feedback during sound localization training enhance perceptual motor learning.

The last aspect of multisensory perception covered in this special issue is about understanding human perception in natural and practical environments. Jola et al. (2013) used fMRI to measure brain activities when observers were watching and/or listening to a long movie of Indian dance, that is, relatively in natural viewing conditions. Seya, Nakayasu, and Yagi (2013) used a driving simulator to define the spatial distribution of useful field of view in driving by measuring reaction times and eye movements.

We hope that readers will enjoy the diversity of topics in research on multisensory perception. Additionally, it is our great pleasure to share some of the fruitful outcomes of the conference as the last part of the IMRF2011 organizing project.

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