

Repeated imagination of a future event increases our belief that it will happen in the future, but only for uncertain events

Repeated simulation increases belief in the future occurrence of uncertain events

👤 Claudia Garcia Jimenez, Giuliana Mazzoni, & Arnaud D'Argembeau



Belief in future occurrence plays a key role in guiding our decisions and actions

This belief may increase with repeated simulation

This increase may be conditioned by the consistency of the event with autobiographical knowledge

Participants repeatedly (3 x 15 sec) imagined future events holding different levels of integration with autobiographical knowledge

- All types of events became more detailed and took less time to construct
- But **belief increased only for uncertain events** – events already believed in or considered implausible were not influenced by repetition

Autobiographical knowledge plays a major role in determining belief in future occurrence, not only as a predictor of the initial belief in novel future events, but also as a **modulating factor in the evolution of belief over repeated simulation.**

