





## Barbara Tversky

Professor of Psychology, Emerita

 Curriculum Vitae available Online    Resume available Online

### Bio

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#### BIO

Barbara Tversky studied cognitive psychology at the University of Michigan. She held positions first at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and then at Stanford, from 1978-2005 when she took early retirement. She is an active Emerita Professor of Psychology at Stanford and Professor of Psychology at Columbia Teachers College. She is a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, the Cognitive Science Society, the Society for Experimental Psychology, the Russell Sage Foundation, and the American Academy of Arts and Science, and a recipient of the Kampe de Fériat Prize. She has been on the Governing Boards of the Psychonomic Society, the Cognitive Science Society, the International Union of Psychological Science, and the Association for Psychological Science. She has served on the editorial boards of many journals and the organizing committees of dozens of international interdisciplinary meetings.

Her research has spanned memory, categorization, language, spatial cognition, event perception and cognition, diagrammatic reasoning, sketching, creativity, design, and gesture. The overall goals have been to uncover how people think about the spaces they inhabit and the actions they perform and see and then how people use the world and the things in it, including their own actions and creations and those of others, to remember, to think, to create, to communicate. Her 2019 book, *Mind in Motion: How Action Shapes Thought*, overviews some of that work. She has collaborated widely, with linguists, philosophers, neuroscientists, computer scientists, chemists, biologists, architects, designers, and artists.

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Emeritus Faculty, Acad Council, Psychology

#### BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- President, Association for Psychological Science, June 1, 2019 (2018 - present)

#### PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Symbolic Systems Program

### Publications

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#### PUBLICATIONS

- **Space to Act, Think, and Create.** *Annual review of psychology*  
Tversky, B.  
2025
- **Many Ways to Think** *JOURNAL OF BIOETHICAL INQUIRY*  
Tversky, B.

2025

- **Daniel Kahneman (1934-2024).** *The American psychologist*  
Tversky, B.  
2024
- **Putting it Together, Together.** *Cognitive science*  
Zheng, C., Tversky, B.  
2024; 48 (2): e13405
- **A Testbed for Exploring Virtual Reality User Interfaces for Assigning Tasks to Agents at Multiple Sites**  
Liu, J., Wang, C., Tversky, B., Feiner, S.  
edited by Spencer, S. N.  
ASSOC COMPUTING MACHINERY.2023
- **Mind in Motion: How Action Shapes Thought**  
Tversky, B.  
SPRINGER HEIDELBERG.2021: 49
- **Thinking Tools: Gestures Change Thought About Time.** *Topics in cognitive science*  
Tversky, B., Jamalian, A.  
2021
- **Anne Marie Treisman (1937-2018) IN MEMORIAM AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST**  
Tversky, B.  
2020; 75 (4): 592–93
- **Changing Perspective: Building Creative Mindsets.** *Cognitive science*  
Chou, Y. J., Tversky, B.  
2020; 44 (4): e12820
- **The kinematics that you do not expect: Integrating prior information and kinematics to understand intentions.** *Cognition*  
Koul, A., Soriano, M., Tversky, B., Becchio, C., Cavallo, A.  
2018; 182: 213–19
- **Sometimes we can see some mental states Comment on "Seeing mental states: An experimental strategy for measuring the observability of other minds" by Cristina Becchio, Atesh Koul, Caterina Asuini, Cesare Bertone, and Andrew Cavallo** *PHYSICS OF LIFE REVIEWS*  
Tversky, B.  
2018; 24: 88–90
- **Shadow play** *SPATIAL COGNITION AND COMPUTATION*  
Tversky, B.  
2018; 18 (2): 86–96
- **Multiple Models. In the Mind and in the World** *HISTORICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH-HISTORISCHE SOZIALFORSCHUNG*  
Tversky, B.  
2018: 59–65
- **When Far Becomes Near: Perspective Taking Induces Social Remapping of Spatial Relations** *PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE*  
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2017; 28 (1): 69-79
- **Gestures can create diagrams (that are neither imagistic nor analog)** *BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES*  
Tversky, B.  
2017; 40: e73
- **Creating visual explanations improves learning.** *Cognitive research: principles and implications*  
Bobek, E., Tversky, B.  
2016; 1 (1): 27

- **From hands to minds: Gestures promote understanding.** *Cognitive research: principles and implications*  
Kang, S., Tversky, B.  
2016; 1 (1): 4
- **Coordinating Gesture, Word, and Diagram: Explanations for Experts and Novices** *SPATIAL COGNITION AND COMPUTATION*  
Kang, S., Tversky, B., Black, J. B.  
2015; 15 (1): 1-26
- **Conceptually congruent actions can promote thought** *JOURNAL OF APPLIED RESEARCH IN MEMORY AND COGNITION*  
Segal, A., Tversky, B., Black, J.  
2014; 3 (3): 124-130
- **Thinking in action** *PRAGMATICS & COGNITION*  
Tversky, B., Kessell, A.  
2014; 22 (2): 206-223
- **Through your eyes: incongruence of gaze and action increases spontaneous perspective taking** *FRONTIERS IN HUMAN NEUROSCIENCE*  
Furlanetto, T., Cavallo, A., Manera, V., Tversky, B., Becchio, C.  
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- **Space, Time, and Story** *PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING AND MOTIVATION, VOL 58*  
Tversky, B., Heiser, J., Morrison, J.  
2013; 58: 47-76
- **How to put things together** *COGNITIVE PROCESSING*  
Daniel, M., Tversky, B.  
2012; 13 (4): 303-319
- **Some ways gestures guide thought**  
Tversky, B., Jamalain, A., Kang, S.  
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Tom, A. C., Tversky, B.  
2012; 26 (2): 182-193
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Hard, B. M., Recchia, G., Tversky, B.  
2011; 140 (4): 586-604
- **Visualizing Thought** *TOPICS IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE*  
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2011; 3 (3): 499-535
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Kessell, A., Tversky, B.  
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- **Embodied and disembodied cognition: Spatial perspective-taking** *COGNITION*  
Tversky, B., Hard, B. M.  
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- **Cognitive Methods for Visualizing Space, Time, and Agents** *5th International Conference on Diagrammatic Representation and Inference*  
Kessell, A. M., Tversky, B.  
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- **The effect of animation on comprehension and interest** *JOURNAL OF COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING*  
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2005; 19 (5): 531-544
- **Bodies and their parts** *MEMORY & COGNITION*  
Morrison, J. B., Tversky, B.  
2005; 33 (4): 696-709
- **Segmenting Everyday Actions: an Object Bias?** *26th Annual Conference of the Cognitive-Science-Society*  
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- **Expert and non-expert knowledge of loosely structured environments** *International Conference on Spatial Informational Theory*  
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- **Narratives of space, time, and life** *Conference on Narrative*  
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- **Cognitive design principles for visualizations: Revealing and instantiating** *25th Annual Conference of the Cognitive-Science-Society*  
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- **Navigating by mind and by body** *Spatial Cognition 2002 Meeting*  
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- **Segmenting ambiguous events** *25th Annual Conference of the Cognitive-Science-Society*  
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- **Sketches for design and design of sketches** *Conference on Human Behaviour in Design*  
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- **Segmenting ambiguous events** *25th Annual Conference of the Cognitive-Science-Society*  
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- **External representations contribute to the dynamic construction of ideas** *2nd International Conference on Theory and Application of Diagrams*  
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- **Perceiving, remembering, and communicating structure in events** *38th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic-Society*  
Zacks, J. M., Tversky, B., Iyer, G.  
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- **Event structure in perception and conception** *PSYCHOLOGICAL BULLETIN*  
Zacks, J. M., Tversky, B.  
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- **Effect of computer animation on users' performance: A review** *TRAVAIL HUMAIN*  
Betrancourt, M., Tversky, B.  
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Tversky, B., Marsh, E. J.  
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- **Lines, blobs, crosses and arrows: Diagrammatic communication with schematic figures** *1st International Conference on Theory and Application of Diagrams (Diagrams 2000)*  
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- **Familiarity and categorical inference** *22nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive-Science-Society*  
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- **Some ways that maps and diagrams communicate** *SPATIAL COGNITION II*  
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- **Bars and lines: A study of graphic communication** *MEMORY & COGNITION*  
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- **Three spaces of spatial cognition** *1997 Annual Meeting of the Association-of-American-Geographers*  
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- **Ontology and geographic objects: An empirical study of cognitive categorization** *International Conference on Spatial Information Theory (COSIT 99)*  
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- **Three-dimensional bilateral symmetry bias in judgments of figural identity and orientation** *PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE*  
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- **What's happening? The structure of event perception** *19th Annual Conference of the Cognitive-Science-Society*  
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- **Body schemas** *19th Annual Conference of the Cognitive-Science-Society*  
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- **Perspective in spatial descriptions** *JOURNAL OF MEMORY AND LANGUAGE*  
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- **SPATIAL CONCEPTS AND PERCEPTION OF PHYSICAL AND DIAGRAMMED SCENES** *PERCEPTUAL AND MOTOR SKILLS*  
Bryant, D. J., Lanca, M., Tversky, B.  
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- **COGNITIVE ORIGINS OF GRAPHIC PRODUCTIONS** *Conference on Understanding Images*  
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- **SPATIAL MENTAL MODELS FROM DESCRIPTIONS** *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE*  
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- **DISTORTIONS IN COGNITIVE MAPS** *GEOFORUM*  
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- **SPATIAL MENTAL MODELS DERIVED FROM SURVEY AND ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS** *JOURNAL OF MEMORY AND LANGUAGE*  
Taylor, H. A., Tversky, B.  
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- **INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SPATIAL FRAMEWORKS FOR REPRESENTING DESCRIBED SCENES** *JOURNAL OF MEMORY AND LANGUAGE*  
Bryant, D. J., Tversky, B., Franklin, N.  
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- **PARTS AND THE BASIC LEVEL IN NATURAL CATEGORIES AND ARTIFICIAL STIMULI - COMMENTS ON MURPHY (1991)** *MEMORY & COGNITION*  
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- **PERCEPTUAL AND CONCEPTUAL FACTORS IN DISTORTIONS IN MEMORY FOR GRAPHS AND MAPS** *JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY-GENERAL*  
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- **A RECONCILIATION OF THE EVIDENCE ON EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY - COMMENTS** *JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY-GENERAL*  
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- **DEVELOPMENT OF TAXONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF NAMED AND PICTURED CATEGORIES** *DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY*  
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- **MEMORY FOR FACES - ARE CARICATURES BETTER THAN PHOTOGRAPHS** *MEMORY & COGNITION*  
Tversky, B., Baratz, D.  
1985; 13 (1): 45-49
- **CITATION CLASSIC - PICTORIAL AND VERBAL ENCODING IN A SHORT-TERM-MEMORY TASK** *CURRENT CONTENTS/SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES*  
Tversky, B.  
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- **OBJECTS, PARTS, AND CATEGORIES** *JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY-GENERAL*  
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- **FORCE OF SYMMETRY IN FORM PERCEPTION** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY*  
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1984; 97 (1): 109-126
- **CATEGORIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCENES** *COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY*  
Tversky, B., Hemenway, K.  
1983; 15 (1): 121-149
- **DISTORTIONS IN MEMORY FOR MAPS** *COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY*  
Tversky, B.  
1981; 13 (3): 407-433
- **DEVELOPMENTAL-TRENDS IN THE USE OF PERCEPTUAL AND CONCEPTUAL ATTRIBUTES IN GROUPING, CLUSTERING, AND RETRIEVAL** *JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY*  
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