

# Brain plasticity for alternative hand control: *From phantoms to robotic fingers*

Tamar Makin  
[plasticity-lab.com](http://plasticity-lab.com)



# Concluions

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Neuroimaging can be a double-edged sword for clinical development

Brain plasticity is limited and is not driven by input loss

Representational similarity analysis can help us find novel representations

Some brain plasticity can be induced by meaningful input



# Phantom limb pain

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# Phantom limb pain is difficult to treat

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“This magic box of neurological trickeries”

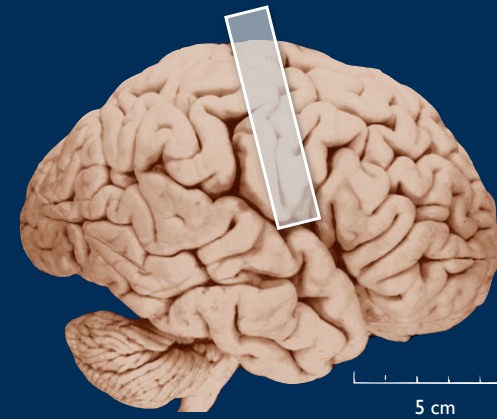
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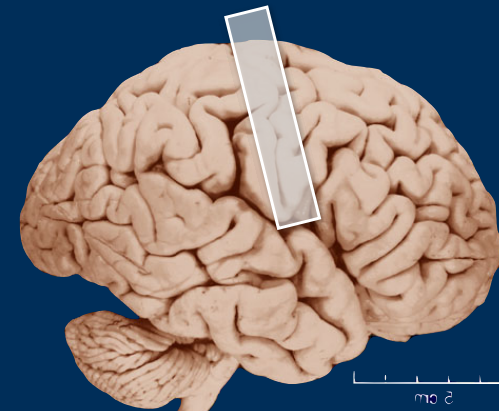
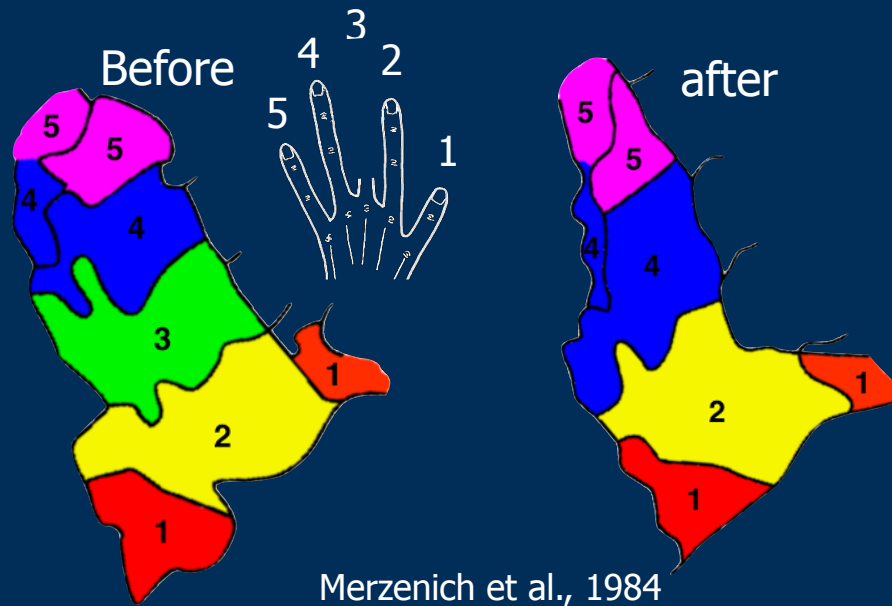
# Brain reorganisation in primary somatosensory cortex



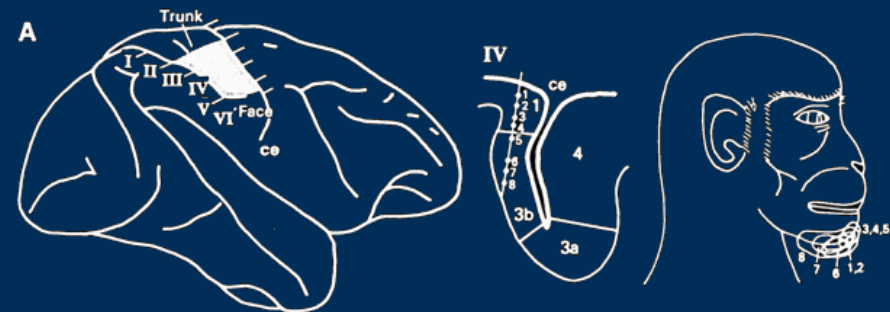
Penfield and Rasmussen, 1950



# Brain reorganisation in primary somatosensory cortex



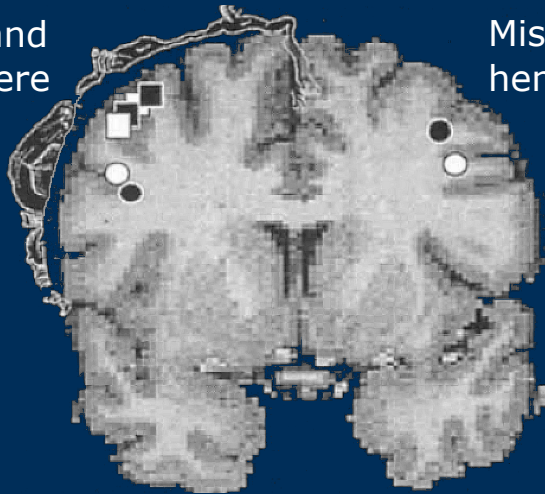
Merzenich et al., 1984



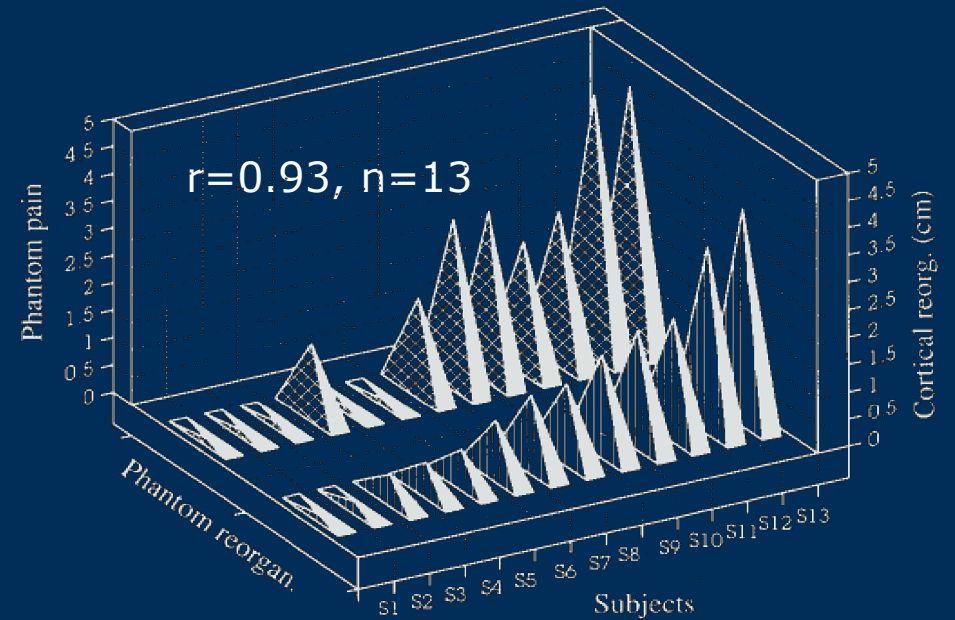
Pons et al., 1991, Science

# Brain reorganisation in primary somatosensory cortex

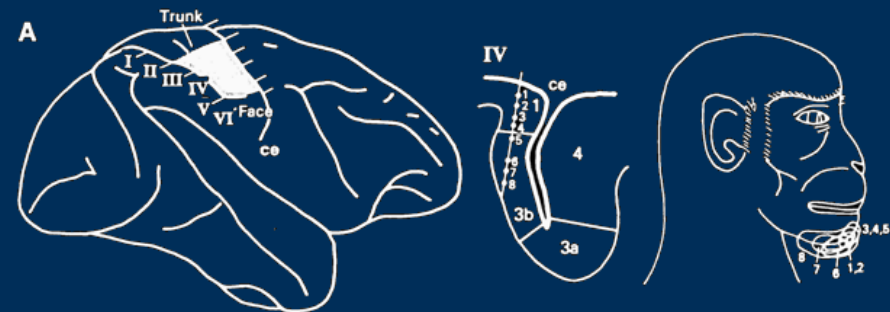
Intact hand hemisphere



Missing hand hemisphere



Flor et al., 1995, Nature



Pons et al., 1991, Science



# The paradox of brain reorganisation

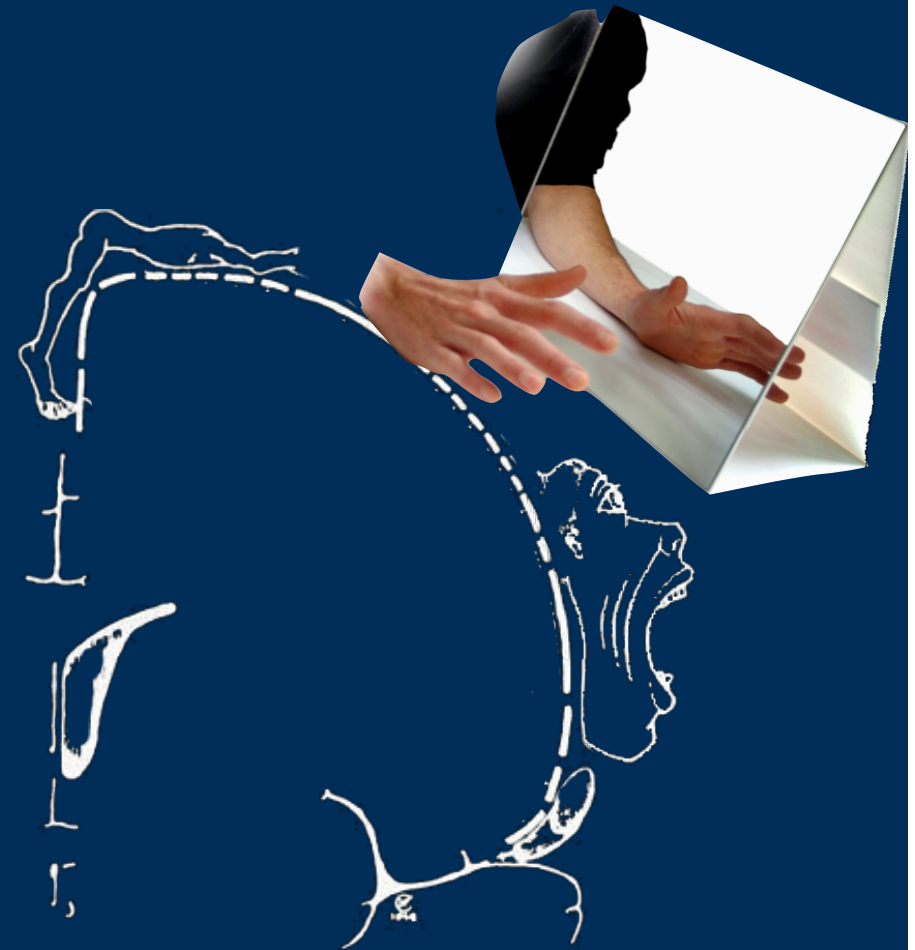
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## *Treatment effectiveness challenged*

- Brodie et al., (2007). European Journal of Pain
- Rothgangel et al., (2011). Int J Rehabil Res
- Thieme et al., (2016). J Pain
- Barbin et al., (2016). Annals of Phys and Rehab Med
- Imaizumi et al., (2017) Front. Hum. Neurosci.
- Rothgangel et al., (2018) Clin Rehabil
- Richardson and Kulkarni (2018) J Pain Res
- Colmenero et al., (2018) Prosthet Orthot Int.
- Ol et al., (2018), Scand. J. Pain
- Aternali and Katz (2019) F1000
- Gundez et al., (2021) Neurorehabil. Neural Repair
- Wang et al., (2021) Clin. Rehabil.

...



## Teaching Video NeuroImages: Mirror therapy against phantom pain

F.A. Steenwinkel, B.C. ter Meulen, V.S. Ramachandran

## Visual responsiveness in sensorimotor cortex is increased following amputation and reduced after mirror therapy

Annie W.-Y. Chan<sup>a, b, d</sup>, Emily Bilger<sup>a, h</sup>, Sarah Griffin<sup>c</sup>, Viktoria Elkins<sup>a</sup>, Sharon Weeks<sup>c</sup>, Lindsay Hussey-Anderson<sup>c</sup>, Paul F. Pasquina<sup>c</sup>, Jack W. Tsao<sup>c, e, f, g, 1</sup>, Chris I. Baker<sup>a</sup>

## Clinical Rehabilitation

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## Feasibility of a traditional and teletreatment approach to mirror therapy in patients with phantom limb pain: a process evaluation performed alongside a randomized controlled trial

Andrea

# THE LANCET

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ARTICLES | VOLUME 388, ISSUE 10062, P2885-2894, DECEMBER 10, 2016



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## Phantom motor execution facilitated by machine learning and augmented reality as treatment for phantom limb pain: a single group, clinical trial in patients with chronic intractable phantom limb pain

Dr Max Ortiz-Catalan, PhD • Rannveig A Guðmundsdóttir, MSc • Morten B Kristoffersen, MSc • Alejandra Zepeda-Echavarría, BSc • Kerstin Caine-Winterberger, OTR • Katarzyna Kulbacka-Ortiz, MSc • et al.

Show all authors

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

PROTOCOL

RESULTS

DISCUSSION

MATERIALS

REFERENCES

DOI

NEUROSCIENCE

AUTHOR PRODUCED

## Real-time Video Projection in an MRI for Characterization of Neural Correlates Associated with Mirror Therapy for Phantom Limb Pain

Faddi G. Saleh Velez<sup>1,2</sup>, Camila B. Pinto<sup>1,3</sup>, Emma S. Bailin<sup>4</sup>, Marionna Münger<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Ellison<sup>5</sup>, Beatriz T. Costa<sup>1</sup>, David Crandell<sup>6</sup>, Nadia Bolognini<sup>7,8</sup>, Lotfi B. Merat Felipe Fregni<sup>1</sup>

## Pain Medicine

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## A Virtual Reality Intervention for Phantom Limb Pain: Development and Feasibility Results

Thomas Garland Alex Qu



# From phantoms to supernumerary robotic fingers

## Phantom hands



## Feet



## Extra thumbs



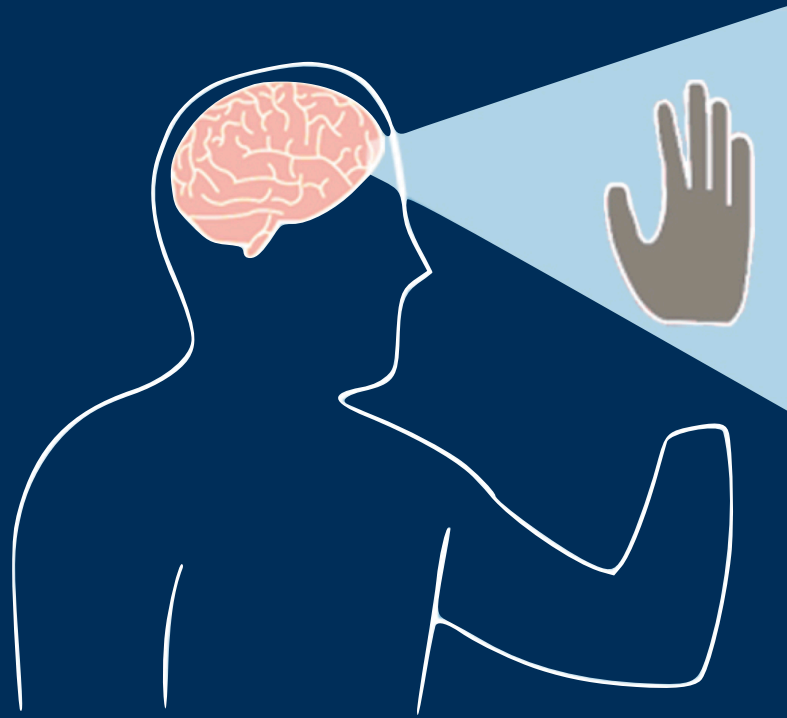
## Artificial limbs



# The paradox of brain reorganisation

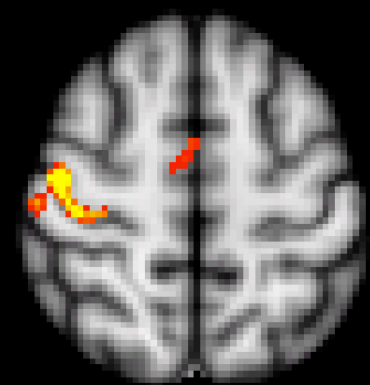
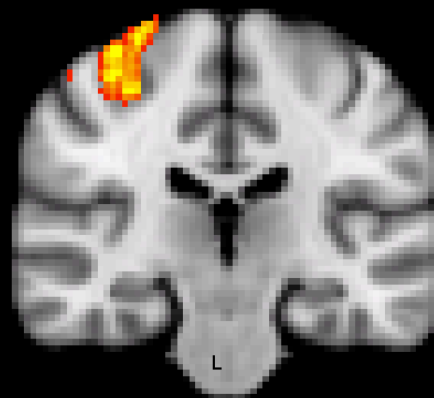
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Sensory deprivation → cortical reorganisation → phantom pain

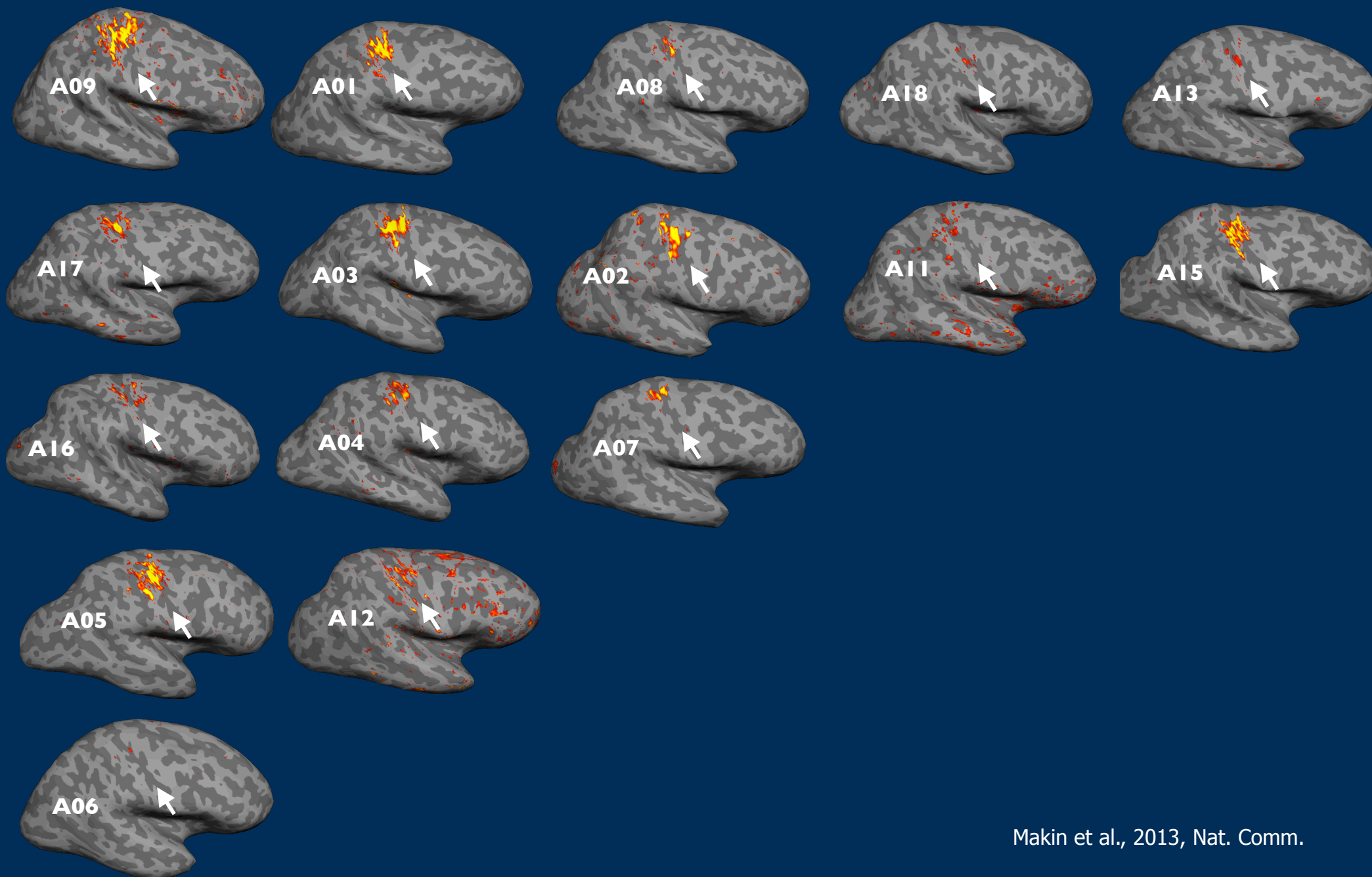


# Phantoms in the Brain

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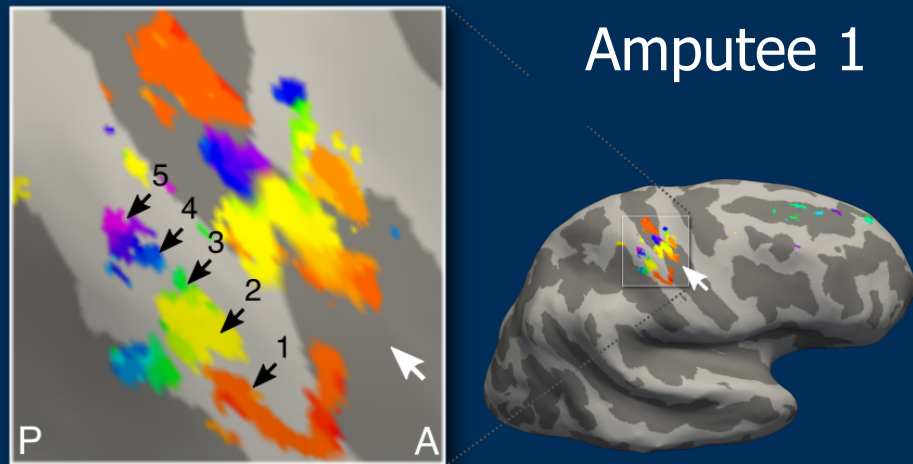
# Preserved Representation of the Phantom Hand in Amputees



# Phantom Finger Maps in Amputees



Sanne Kikkert



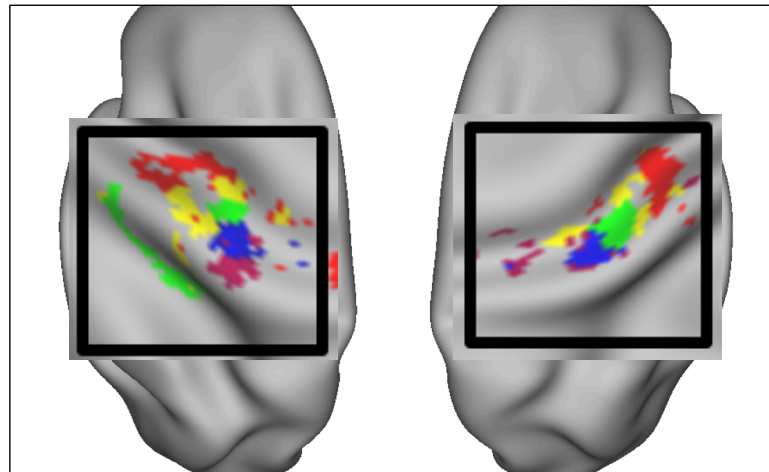
Above elbow,  
31 years since amputation

# Does losing a hand impact its brain representation?



Hunter Schone

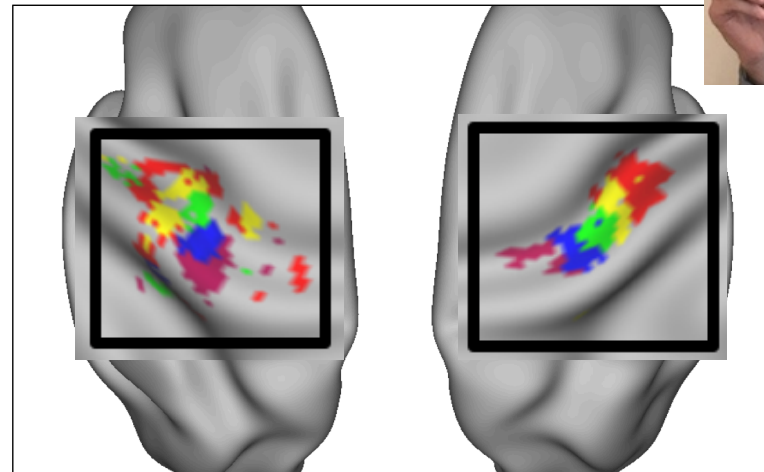
**3 days Pre-Amputation**



Unhealthy

Healthy

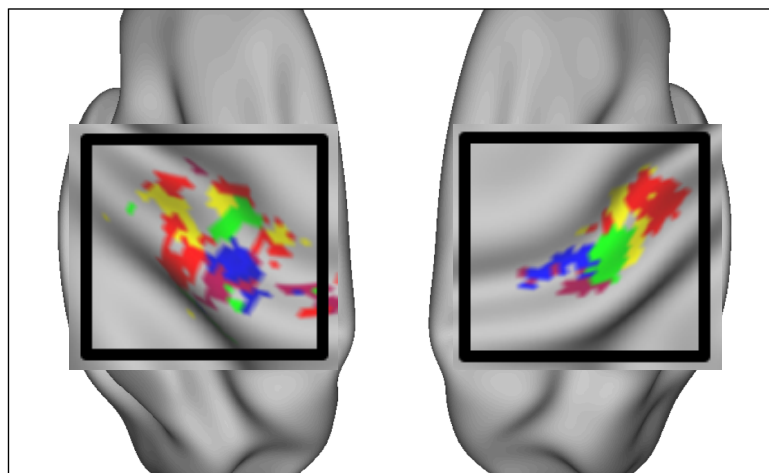
**2 days Pre-Amputation**



Unhealthy

Healthy

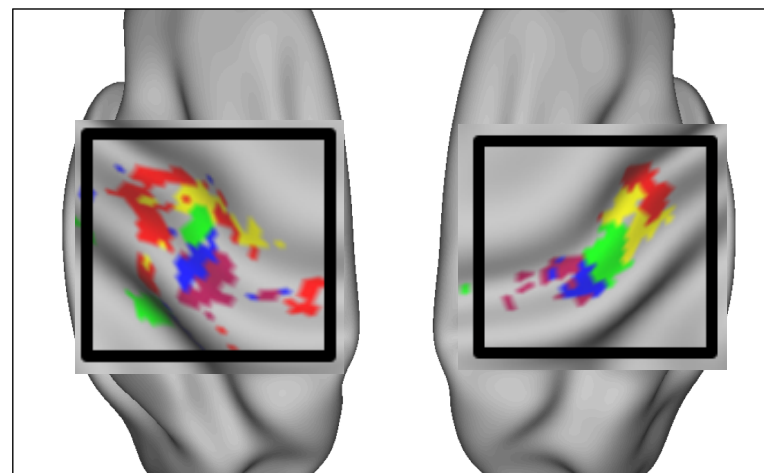
**3 months Post-Amputation**



Phantom

Intact

**6 months Post-Amputation**



Phantom

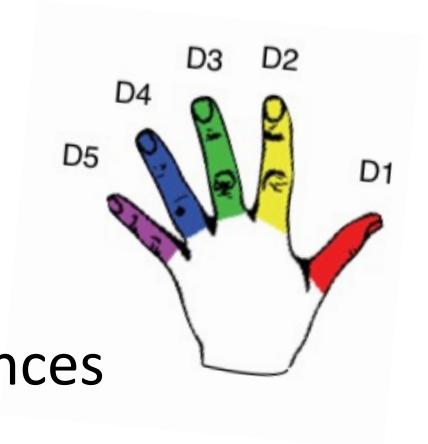
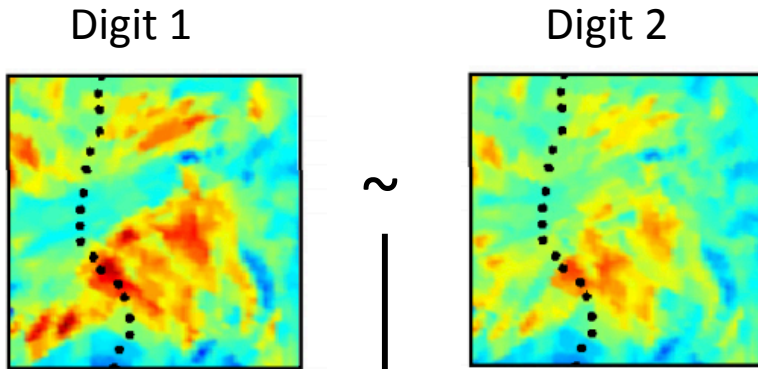
Intact



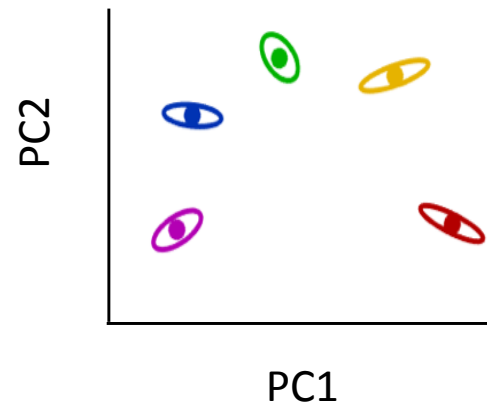
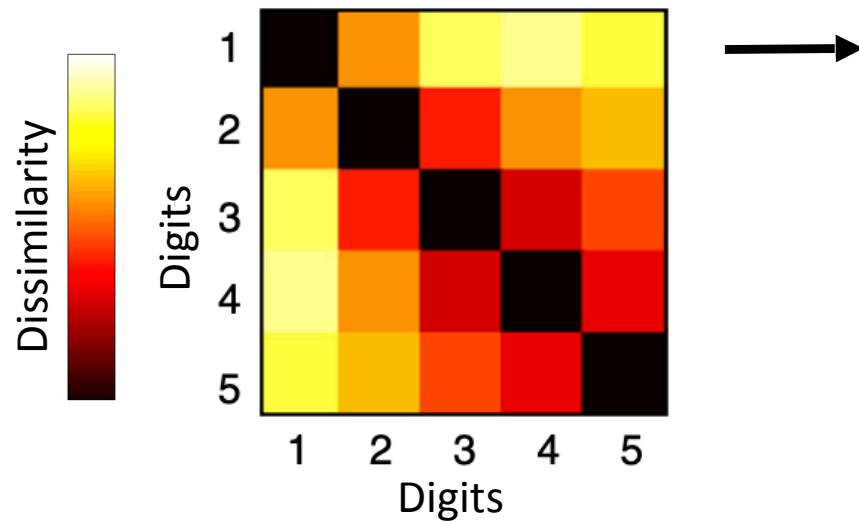


# Representational similarity analysis of finger representation

Task: Single-digit movement or touch



dissimilarity as distances

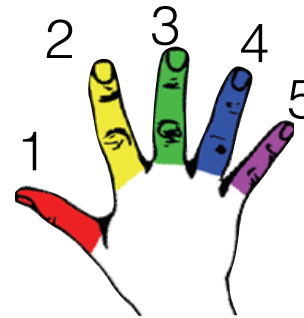
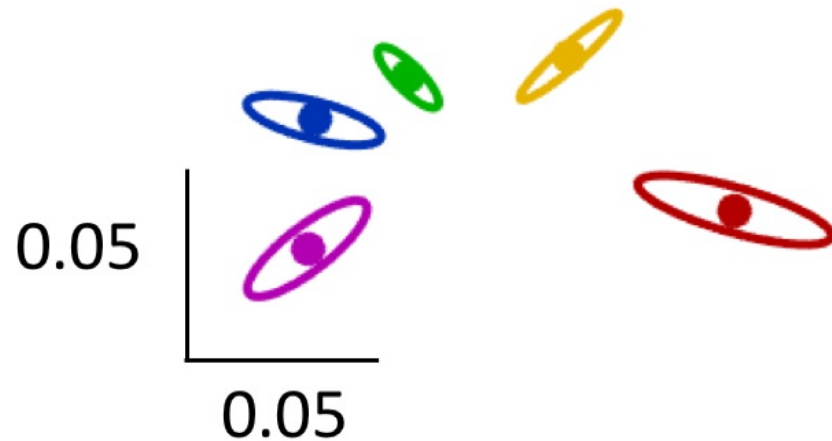


# Representational similarity analysis of phantom hands

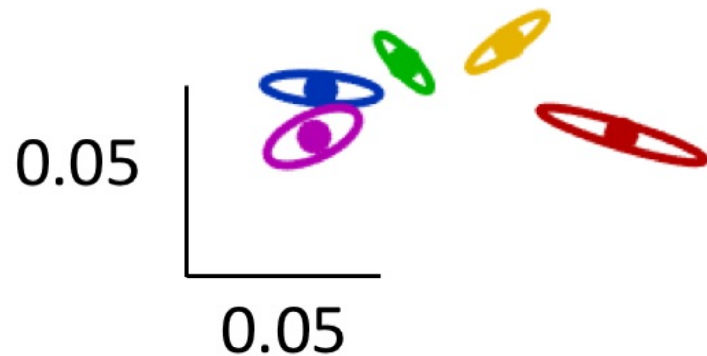


Daan Wesselink

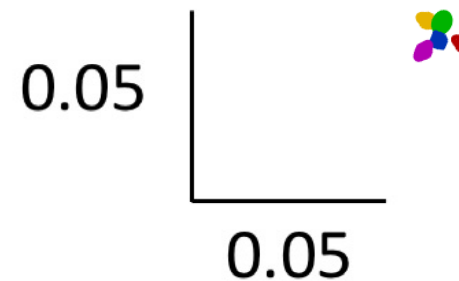
Intact controls (n=11)



Acquired amputees (n=17)

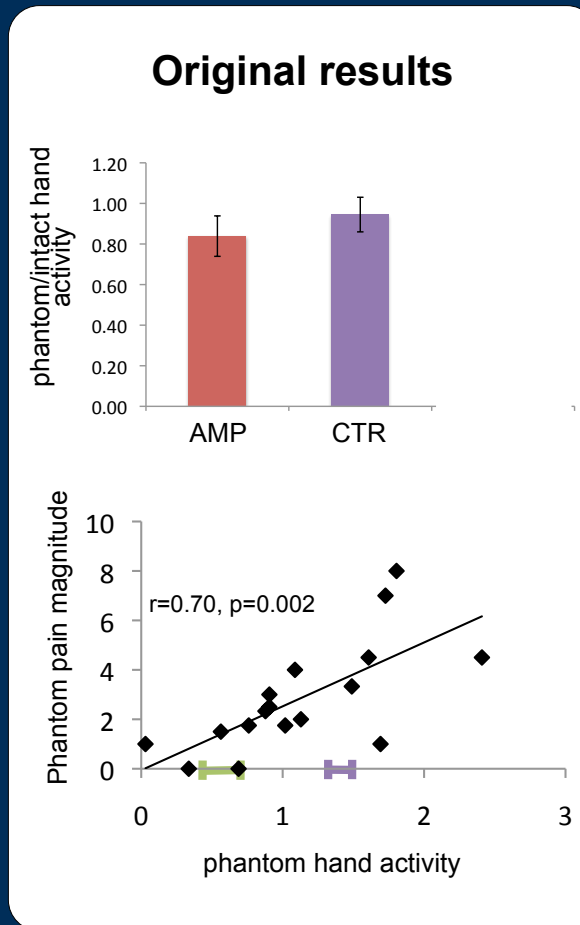
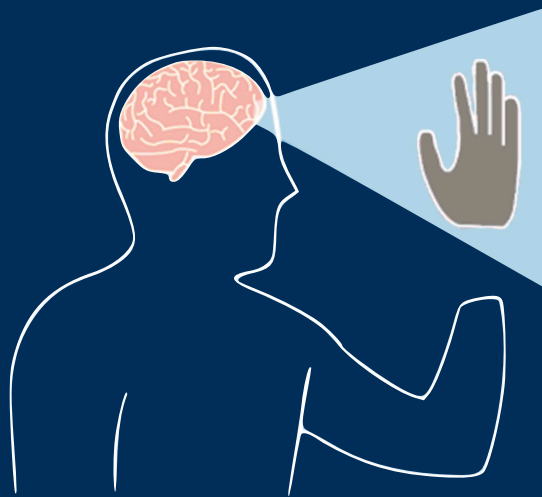


Congenital one-handers (n=13)

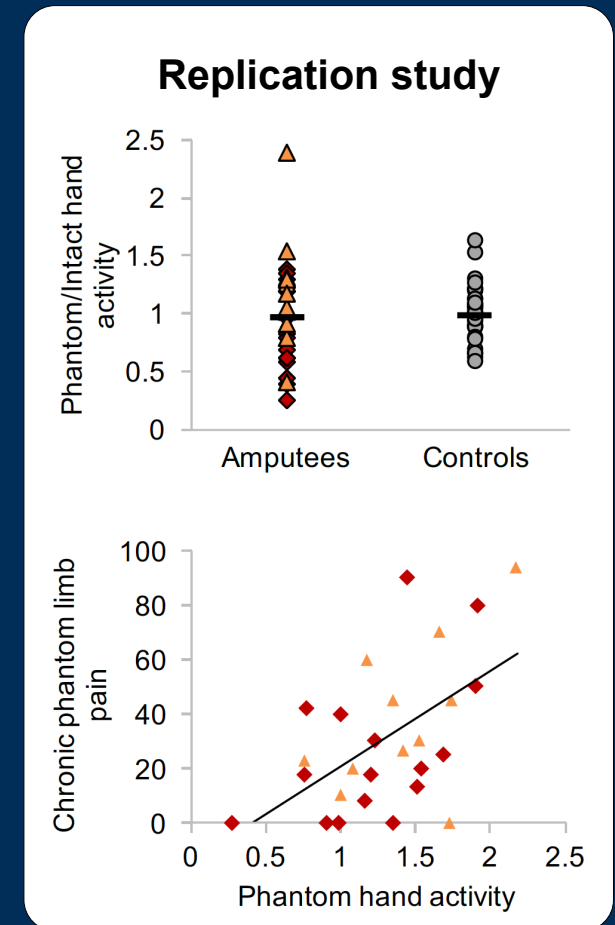


# The paradox of brain reorganisation

Sensory deprivation → cortical reorganisation → phantom pain



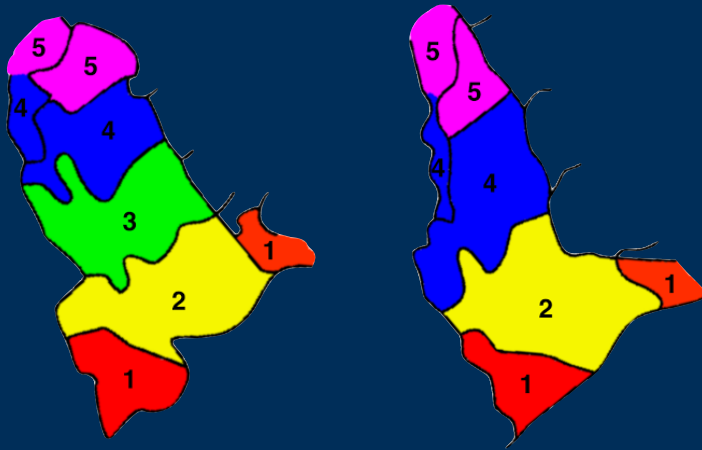
Makin et al., 2013,  
Nature Communications



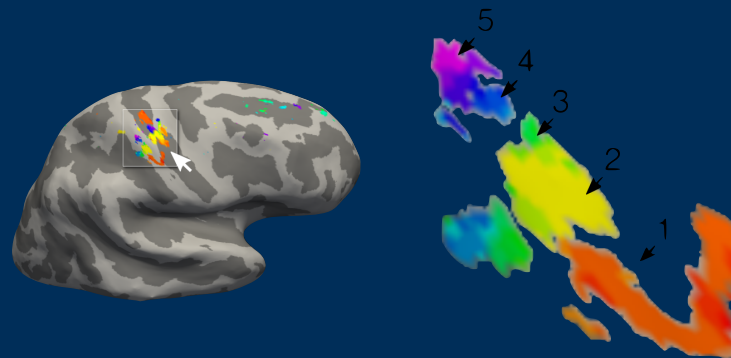
Kikkert et al., 2018,  
Cortex

# Interim conclusions: neural correlates of phantom pain

Textbook: maladaptive reorganisation



Our findings: preserved local organisation



# What about reorganisation?

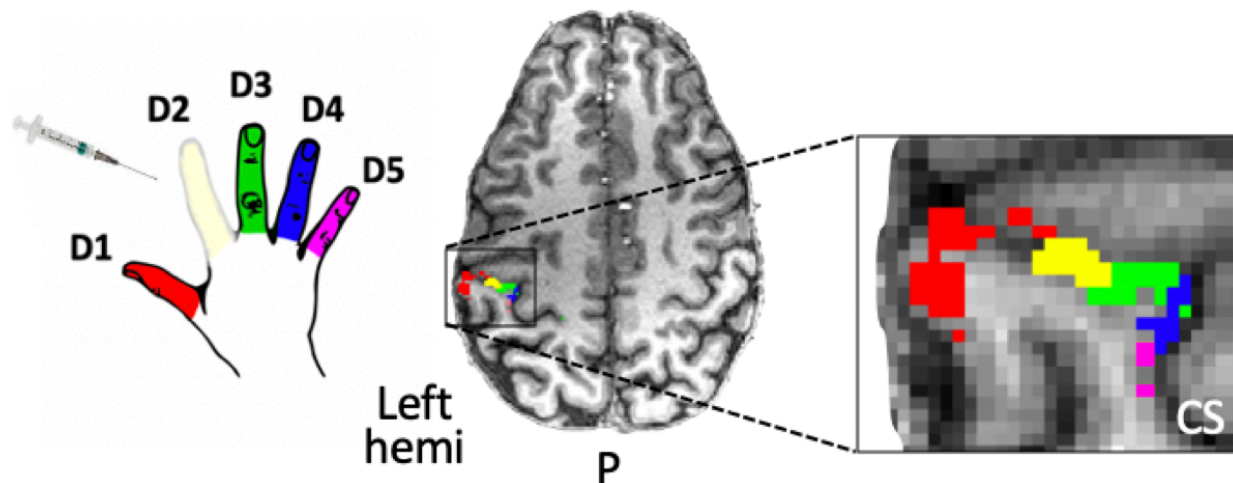
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# Replicating the remapping effect using local anaesthesia

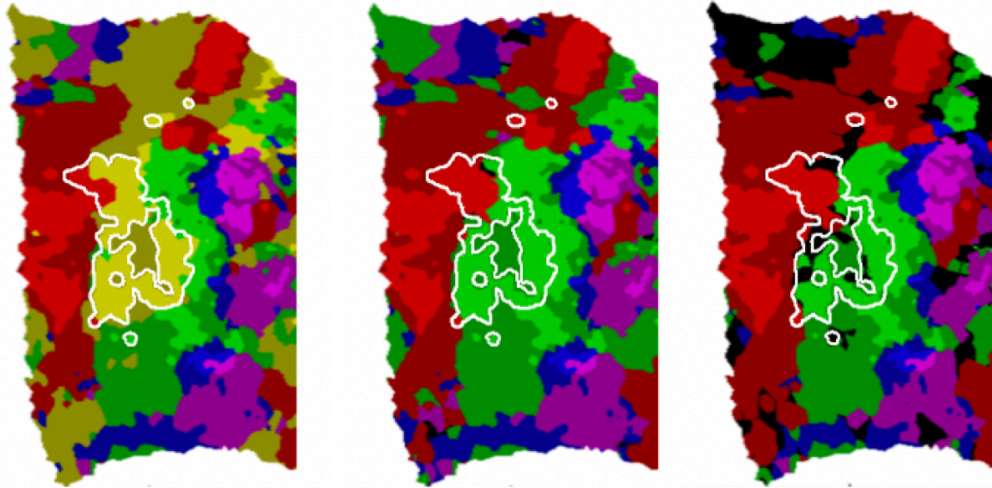


Daan Wesselink

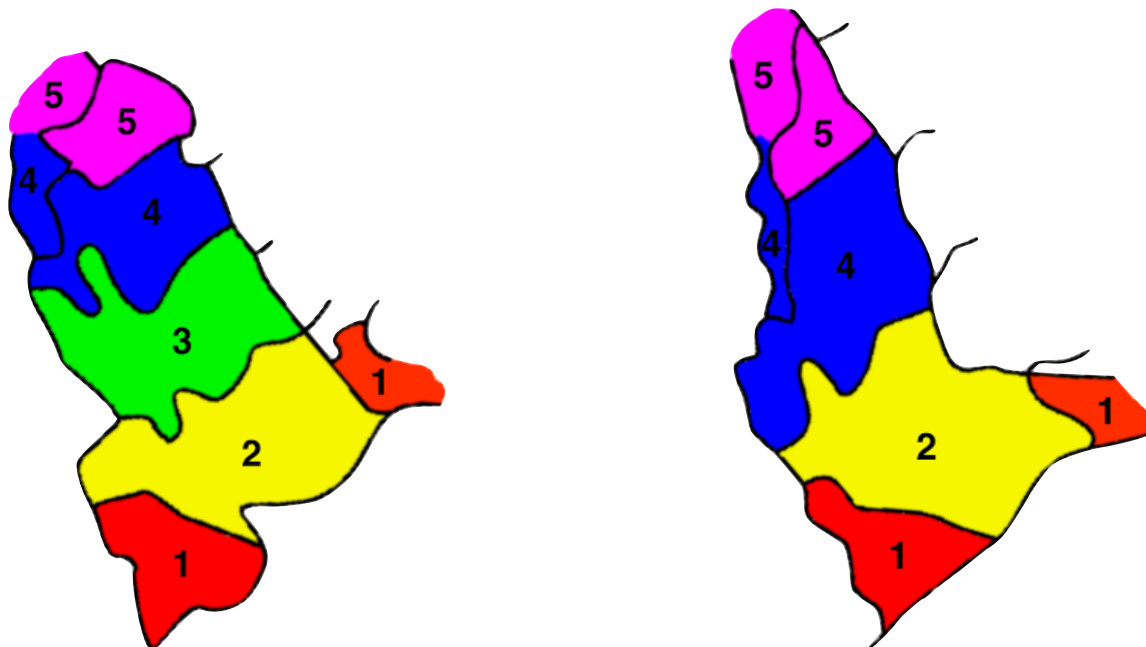
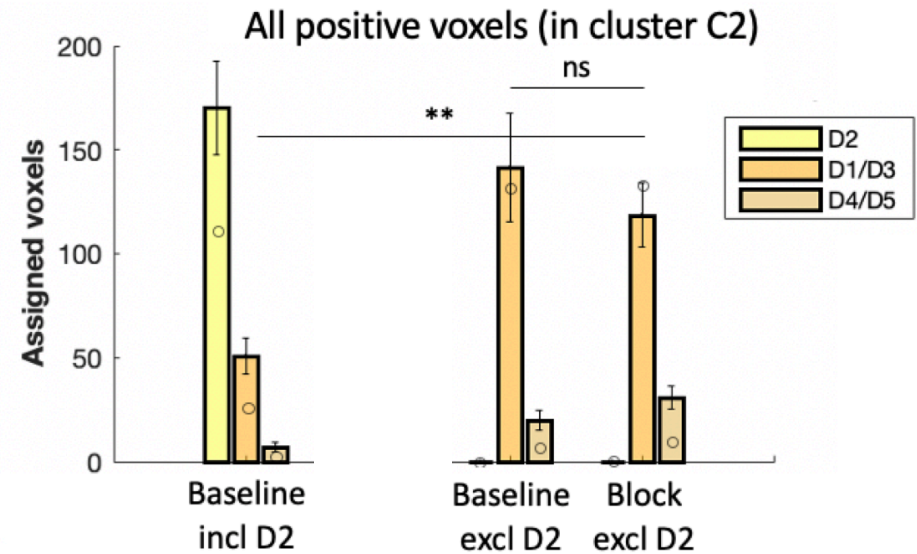


# Replicating the remapping effect using local anaesthesia

Baseline – 5 fingers    Baseline – 4 fingers    Block – 4 fingers



Finger selective clusters



# Should we give up on reorganisation?

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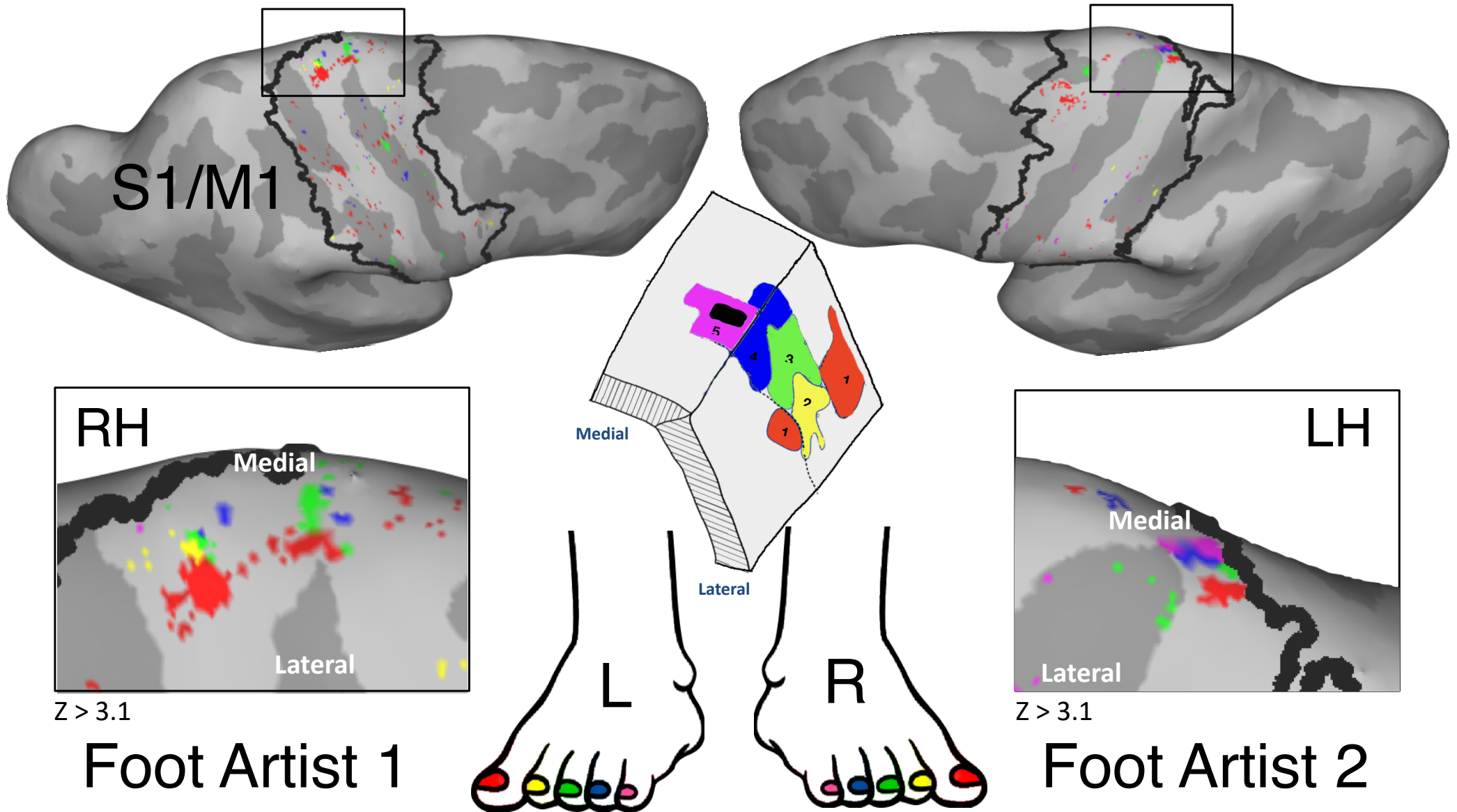




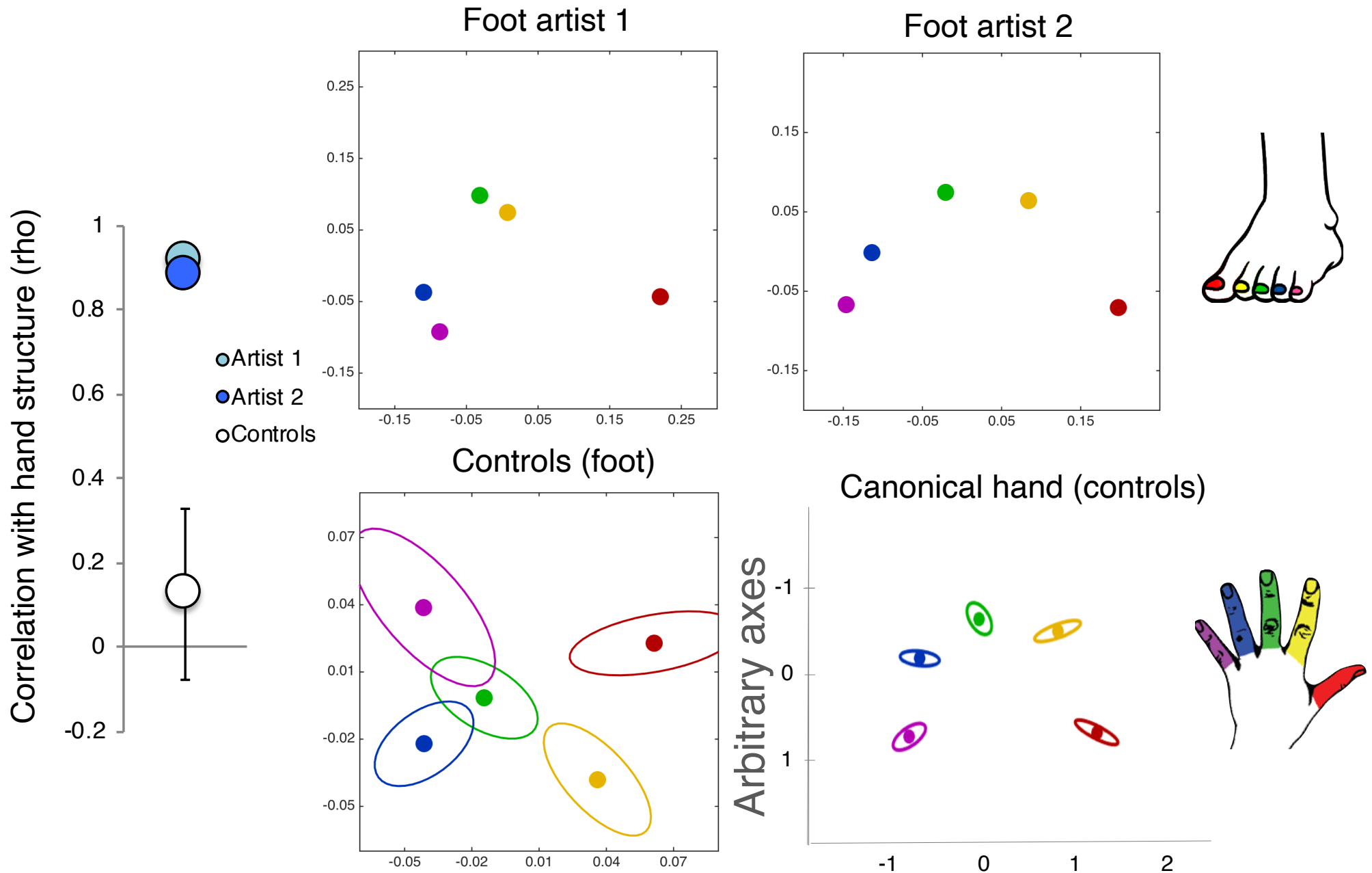
Bob Ross Day -  
Plasticity Lab  
August 2019, ICN



# Toe maps in artist's foot area



# Toe maps in artist's foot area



Should we give up on the adults brain?

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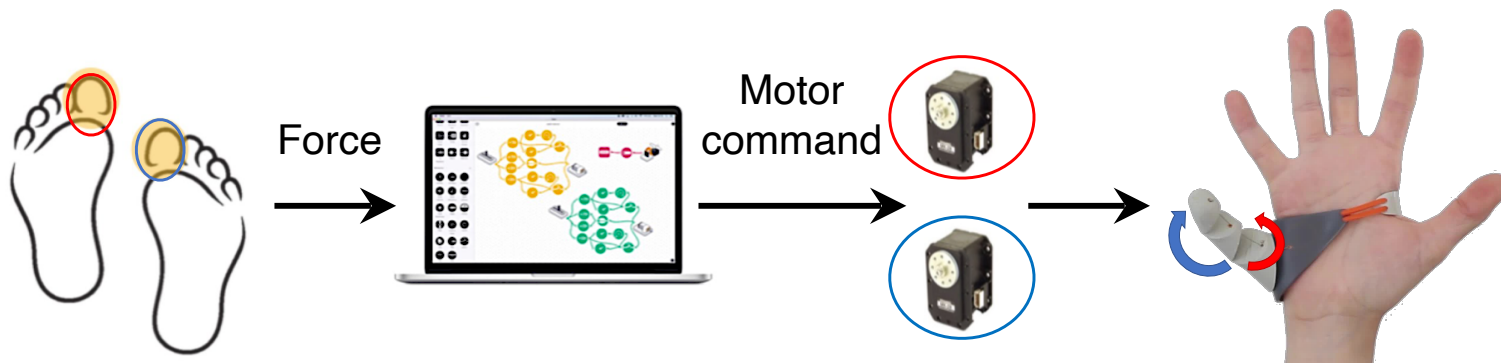
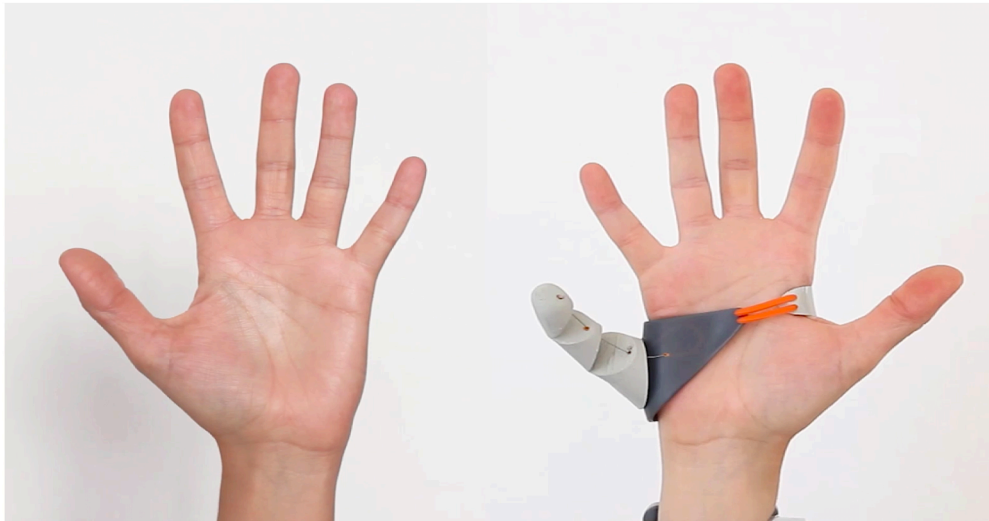
Dani Clode



i: @dani\_clode  
w: daniclode.com

# Operating the Third Thumb with the toes

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FREE EVENT  
**SUMMER SCIENCE EXHIBITION**  
6 - 10 JULY 2022

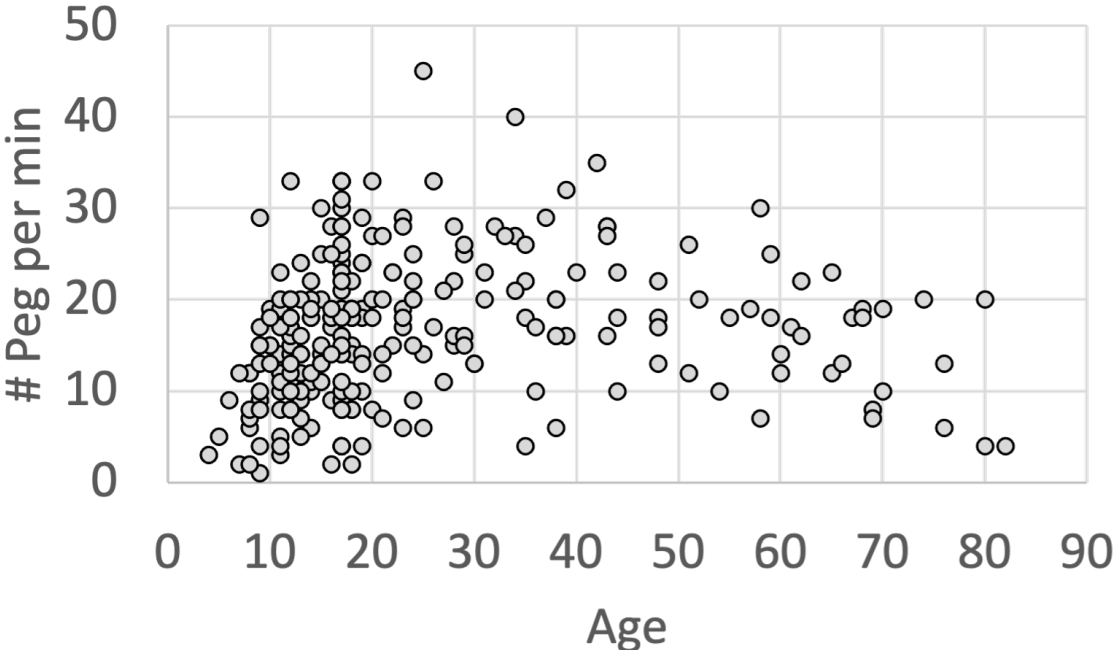




First time experience using the Third Thumb (578 participants)  
*Thumb-hand collaboration*



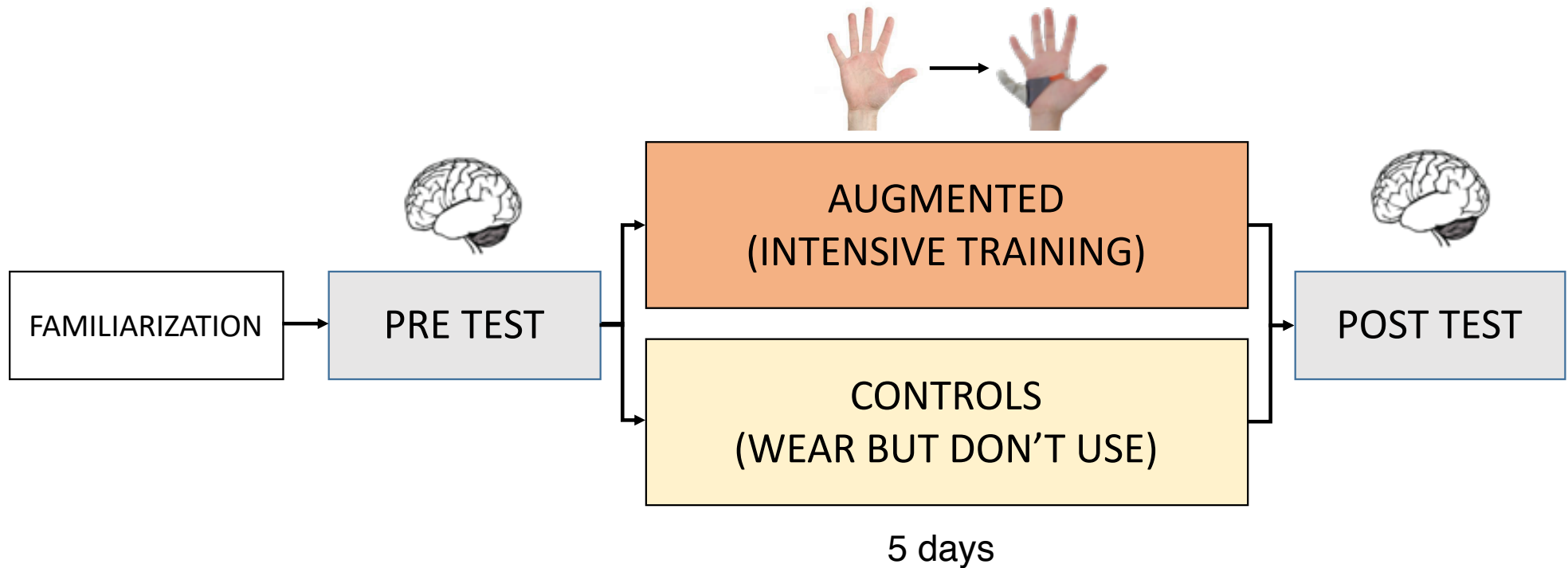
(Almost) everyone (99%) can learn to use the Third Thumb within a minute  
*Thumb individuation task*



# Study design

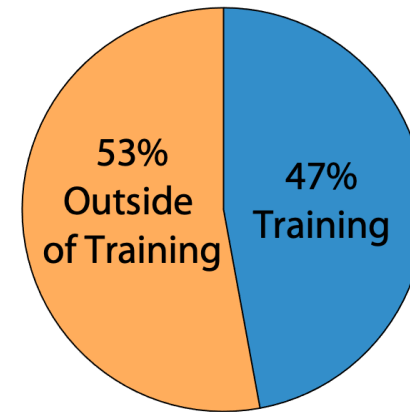
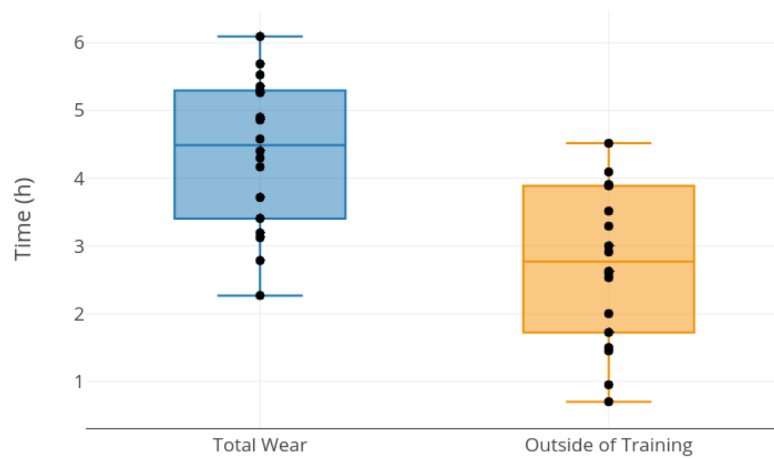


Paulina Kieliba



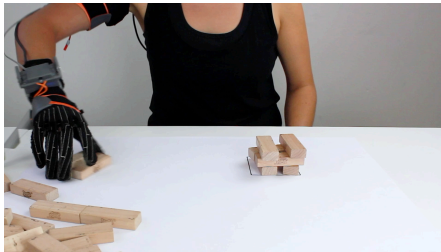
# Average Daily Wear Time

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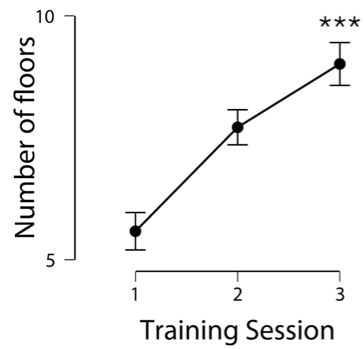


# Training works..

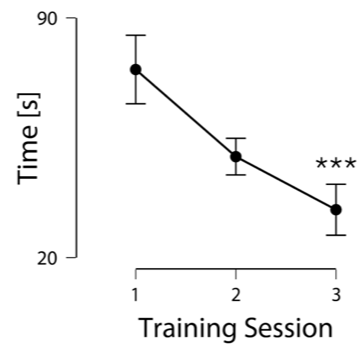
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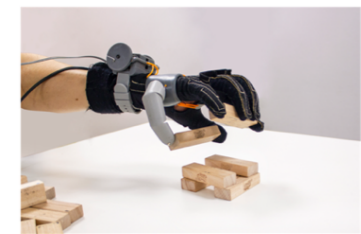
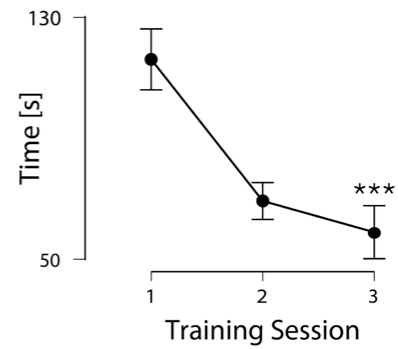
Collaboration



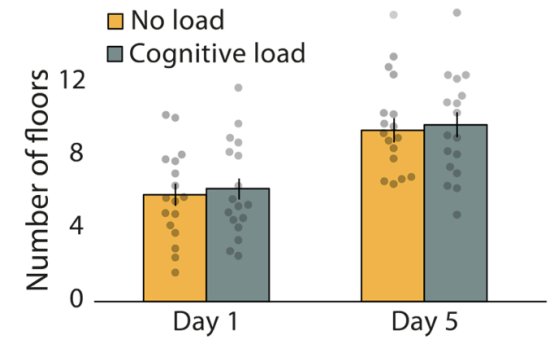
Shared Supervision



Individuation

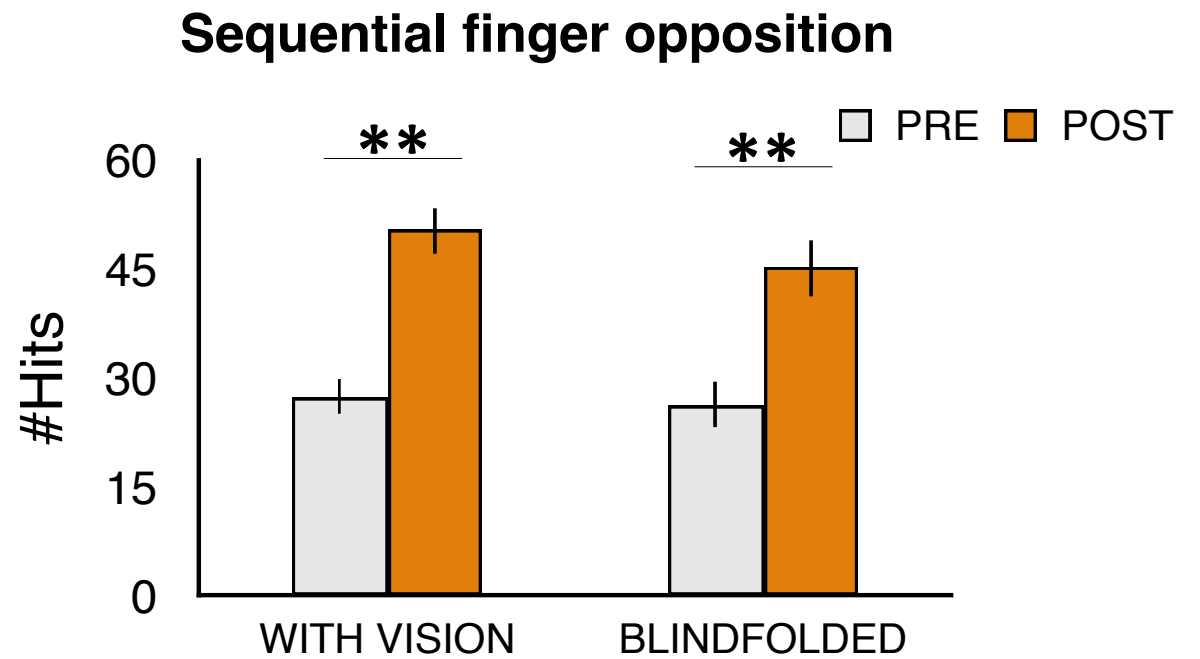
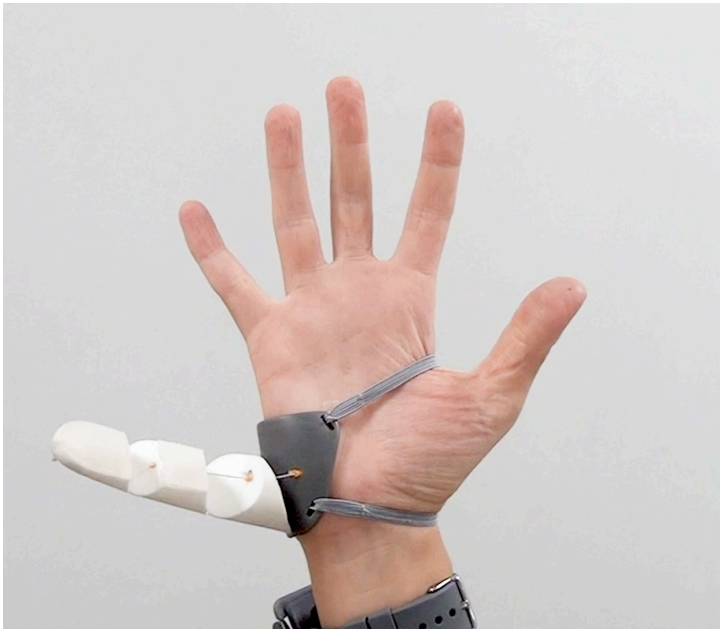


Collaboration



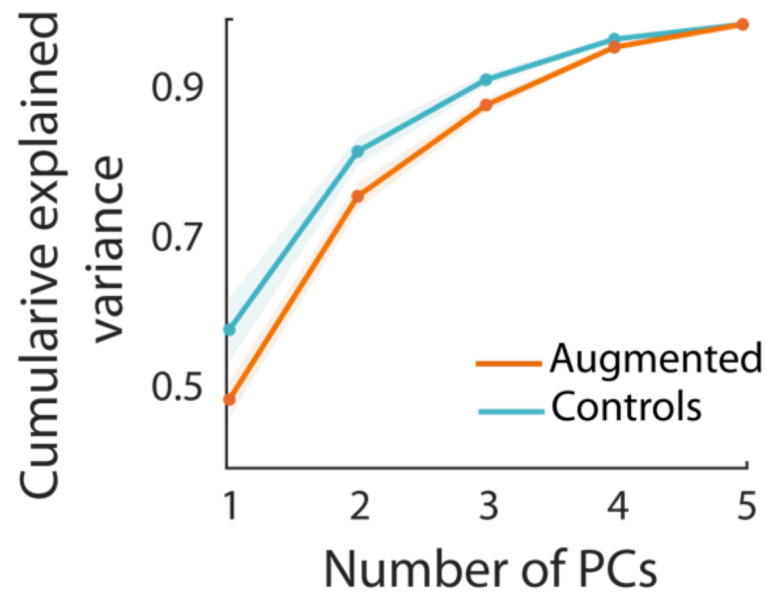
# Hand-robot Coordination Improves with Training

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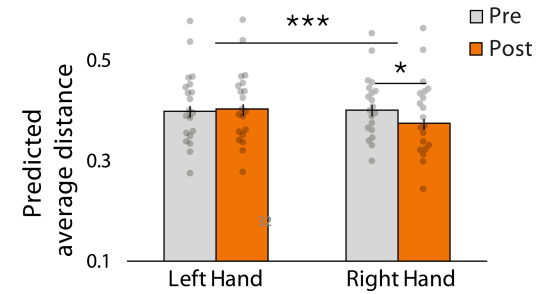
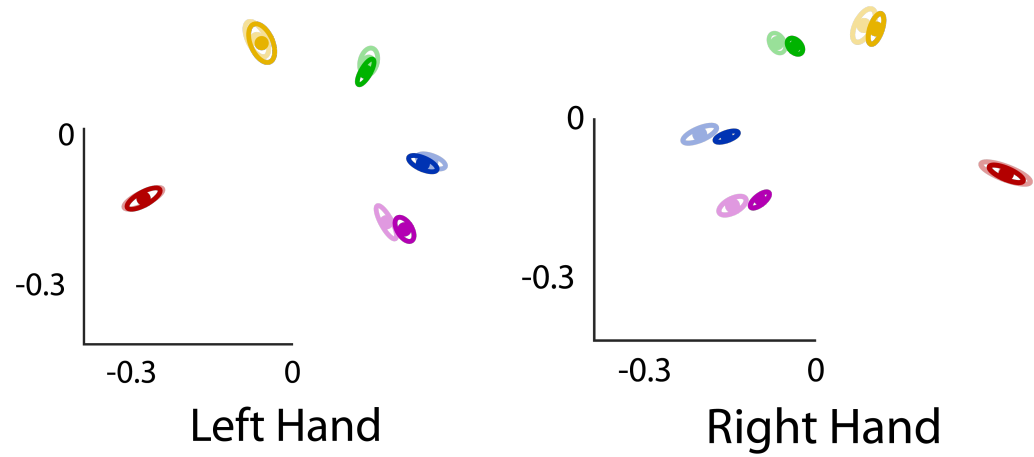
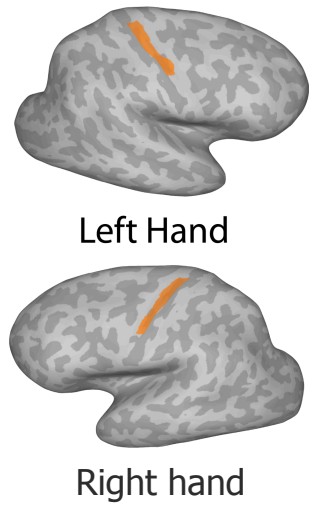
## Changed Finger Synergies with Third Thumb

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Kieliba, et al., *Science Robotics*, 2021

# M1 Results: Post training



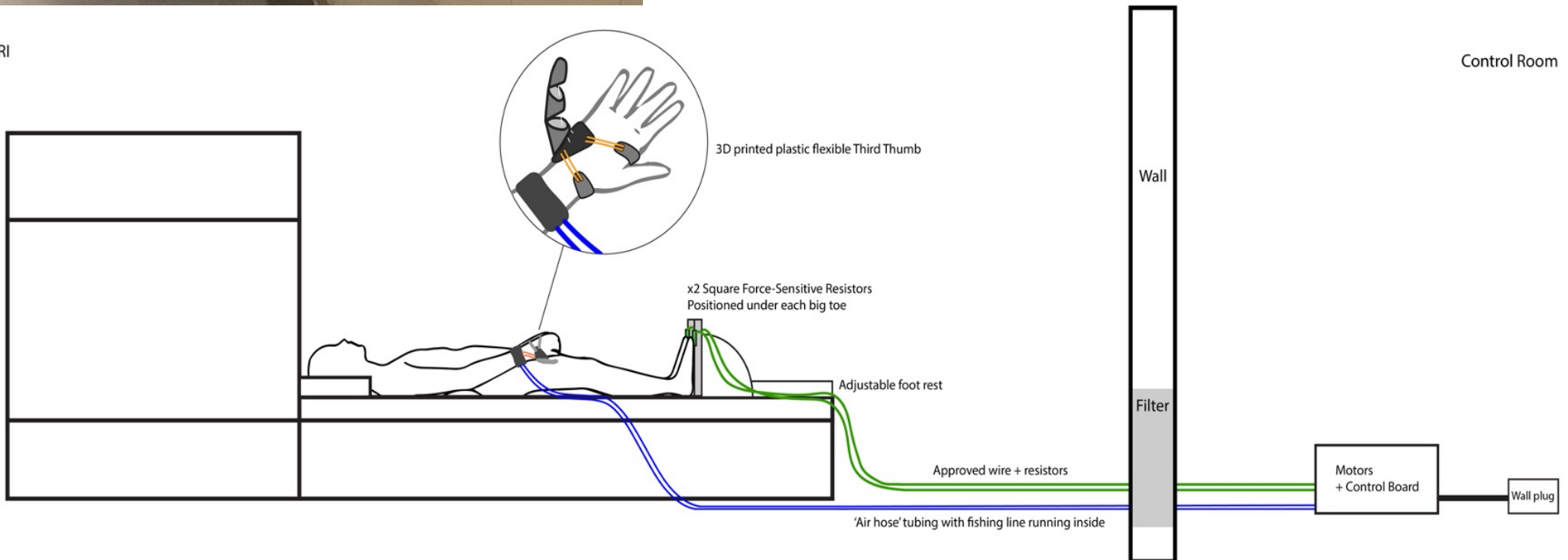


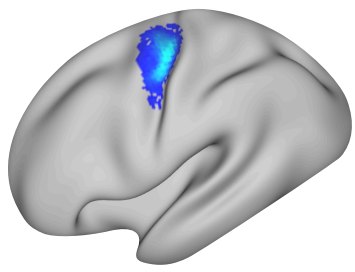


Elena Amoruso

# MRI compatible set-up

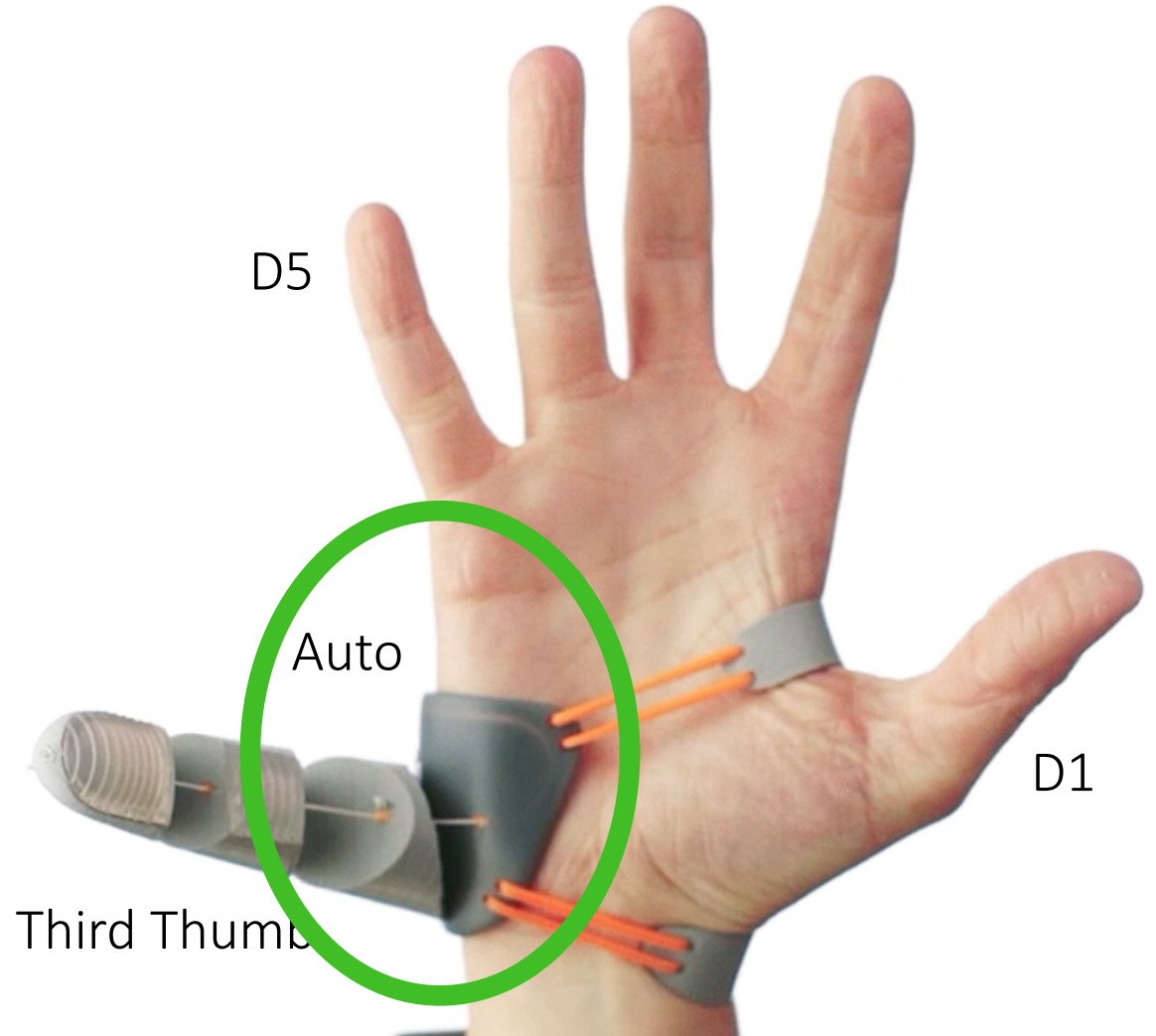
MRI

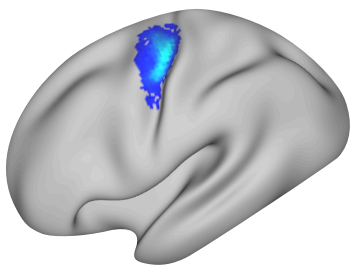




# What's in a thumb?

Third Thumb = Toe + Auto



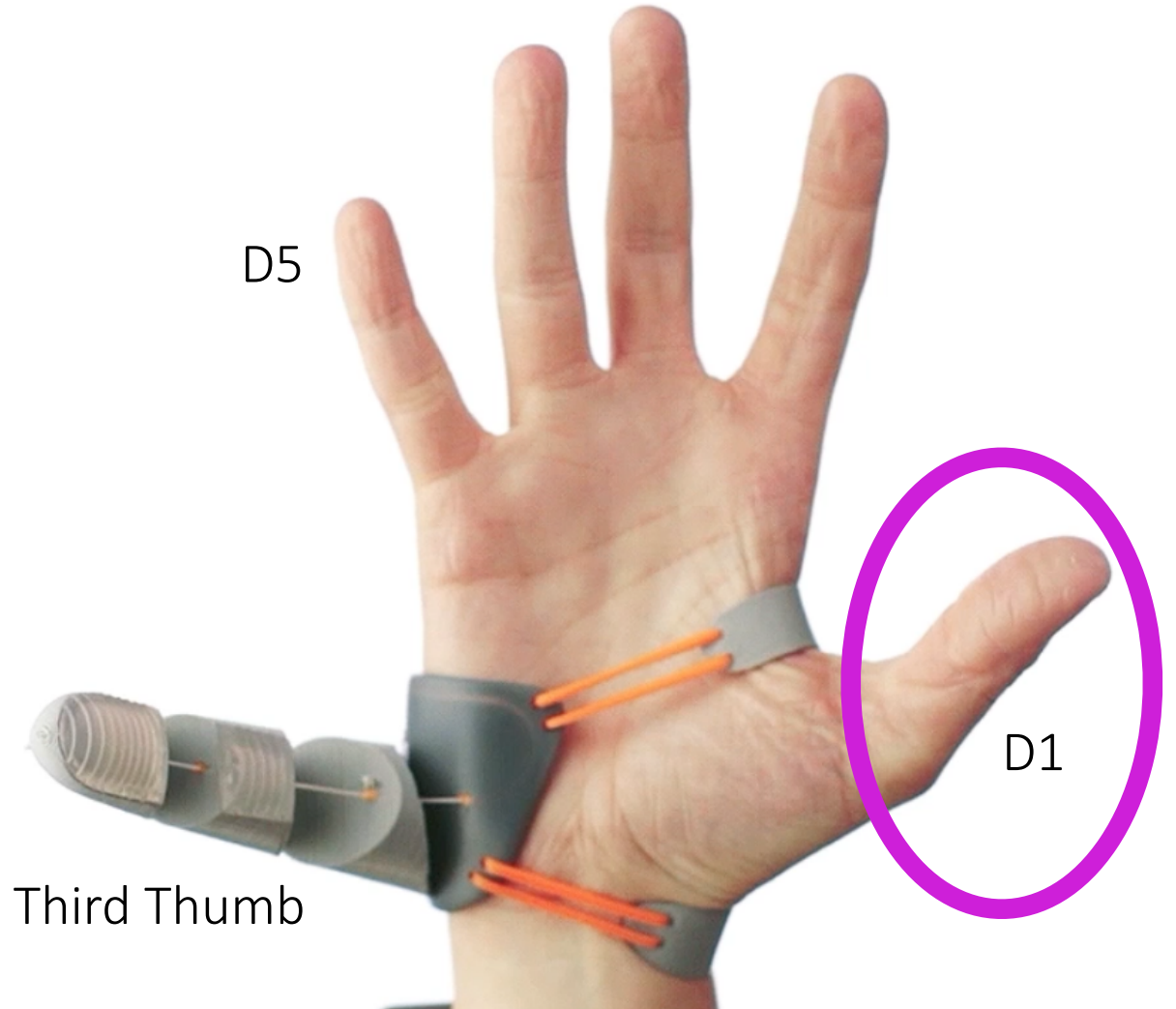


What's in a thumb?

Third Thumb = Toe + Auto



Toe

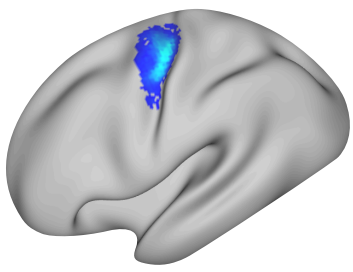


D5

D1

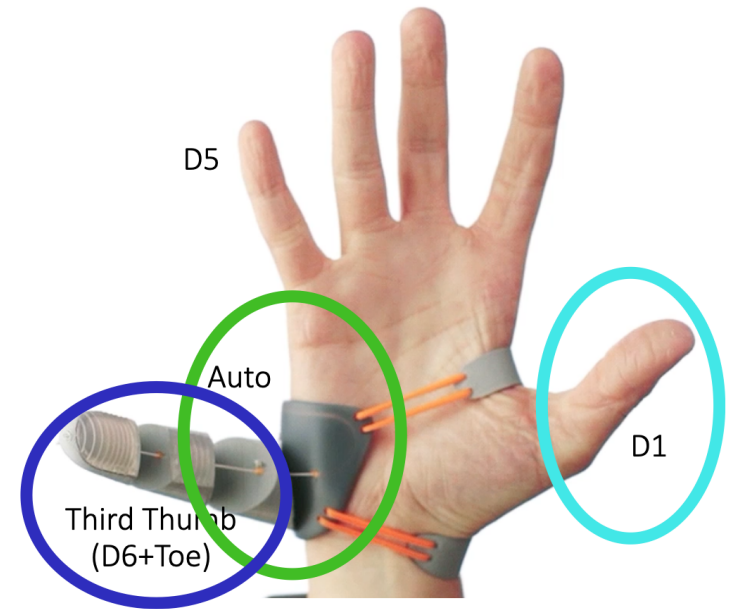
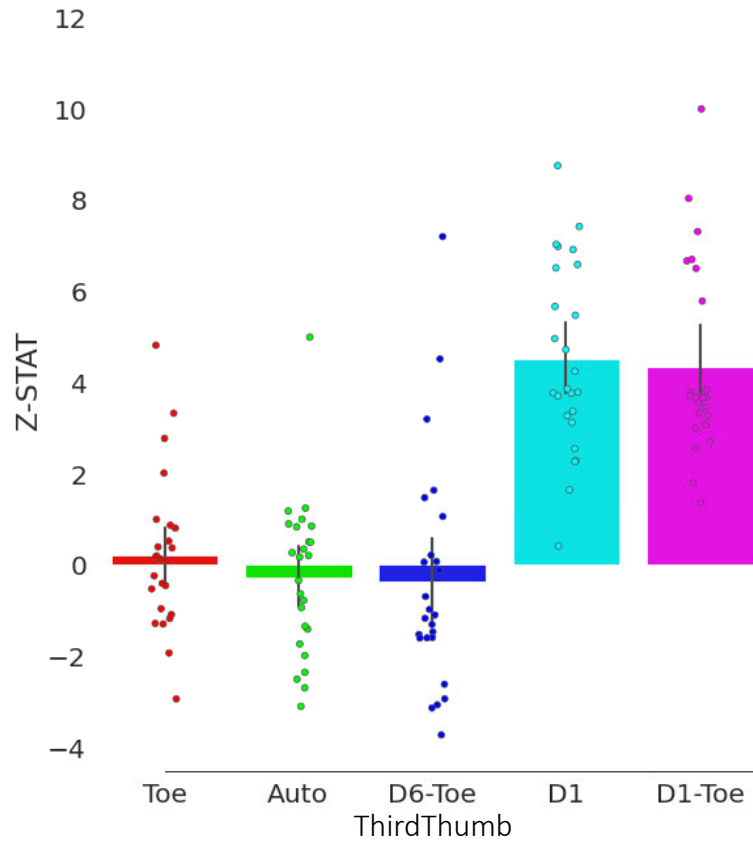
Third Thumb

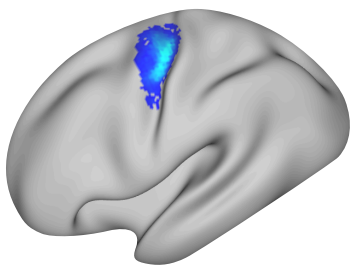
$D1 + \text{Toe} = \text{Toe} + D1$



# What's in a thumb? M1 Hand area

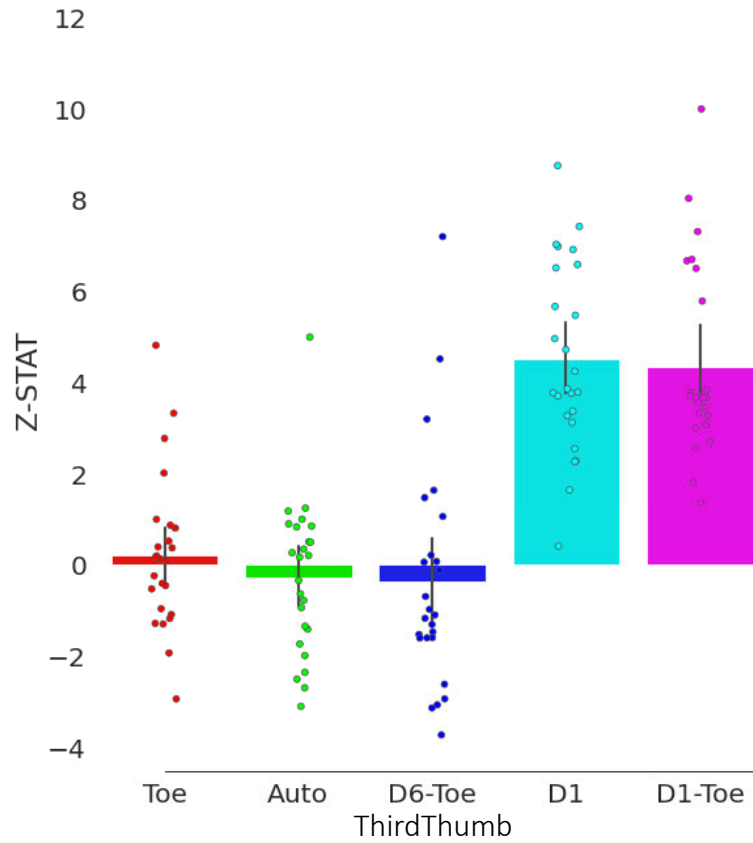
Univariate



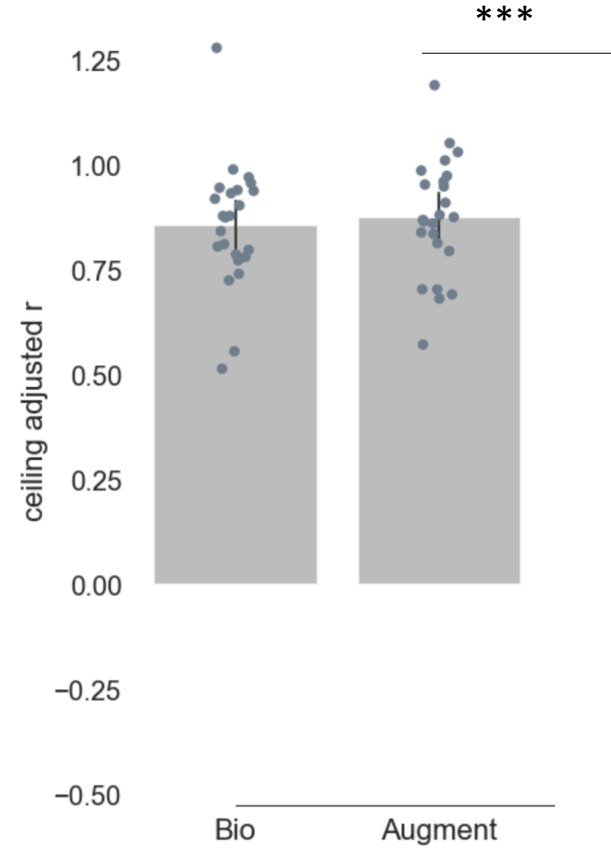


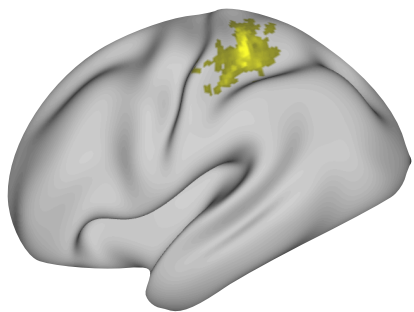
# What's in a thumb? M1 Hand area

Univariate



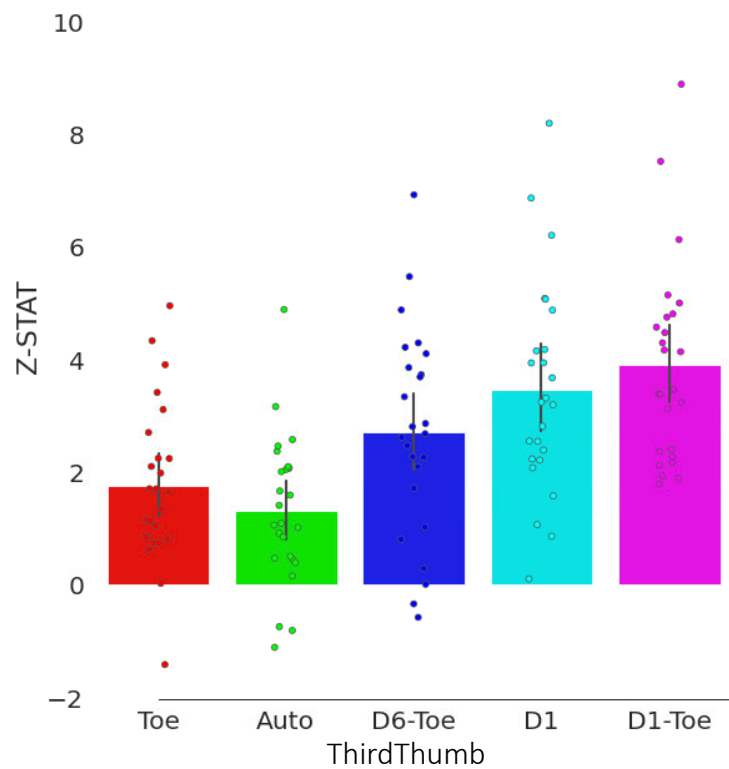
Multivariate



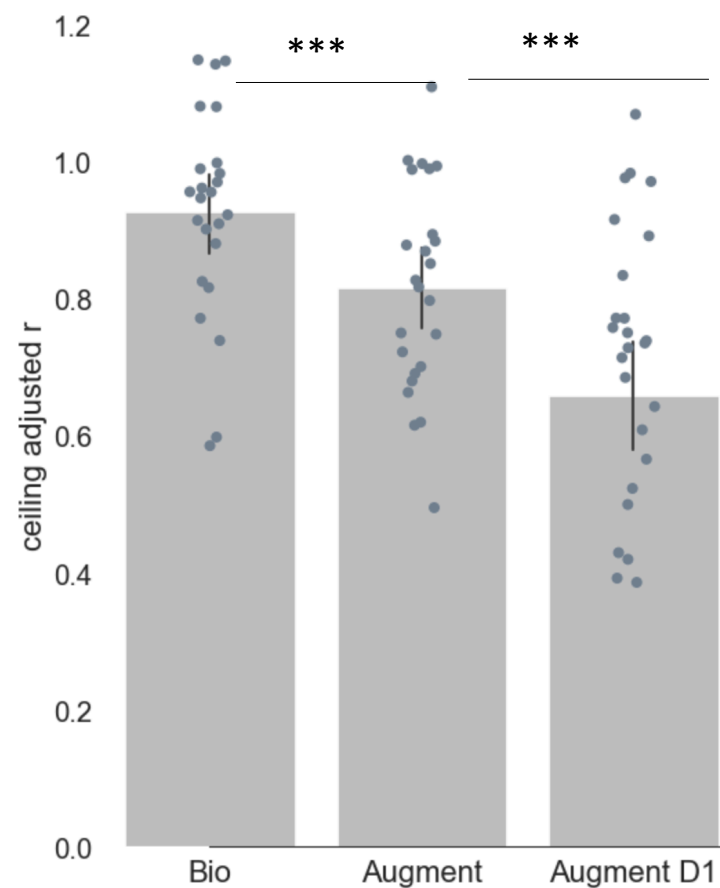


# What's in a thumb? Superior parietal cortex

Univariate



Multivariate



# What about amputees?

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# Artificial limbs activate hand-selective (visual) brain areas



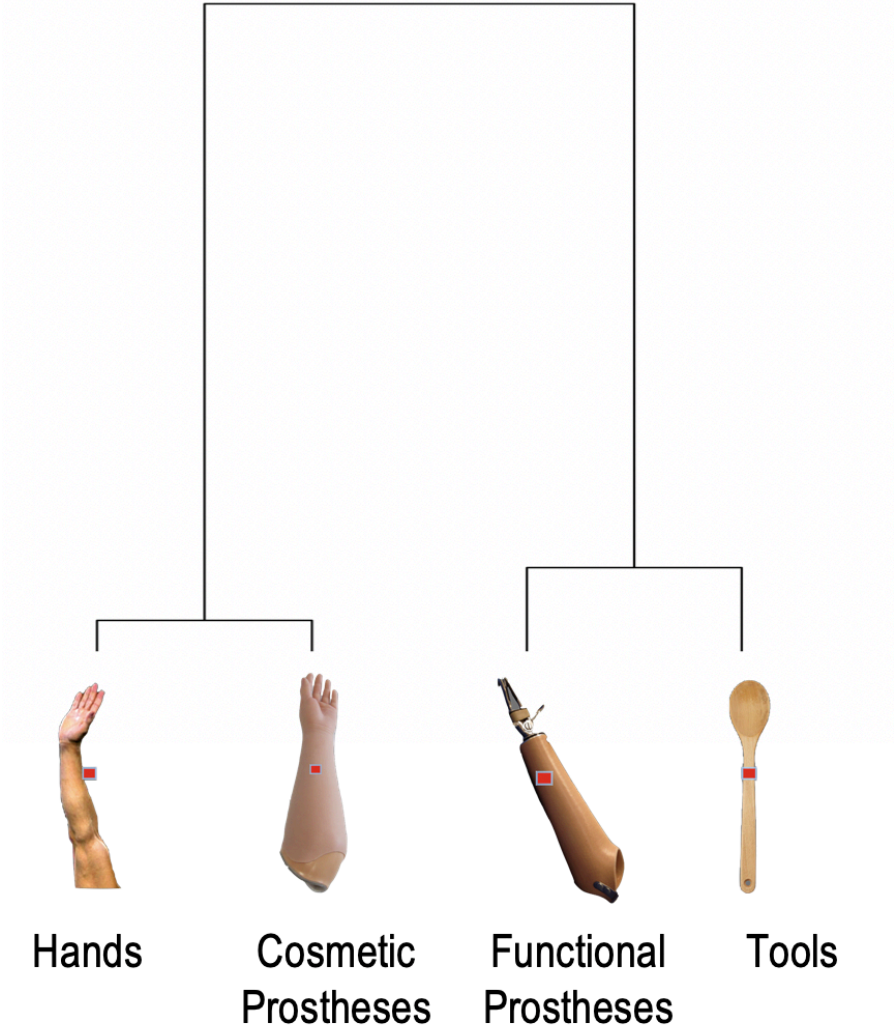


# Brain decoding of artificial limbs

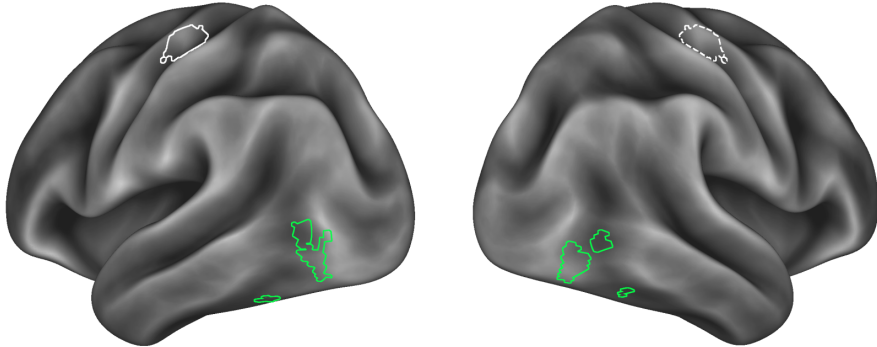


Roni Maimon-Mor

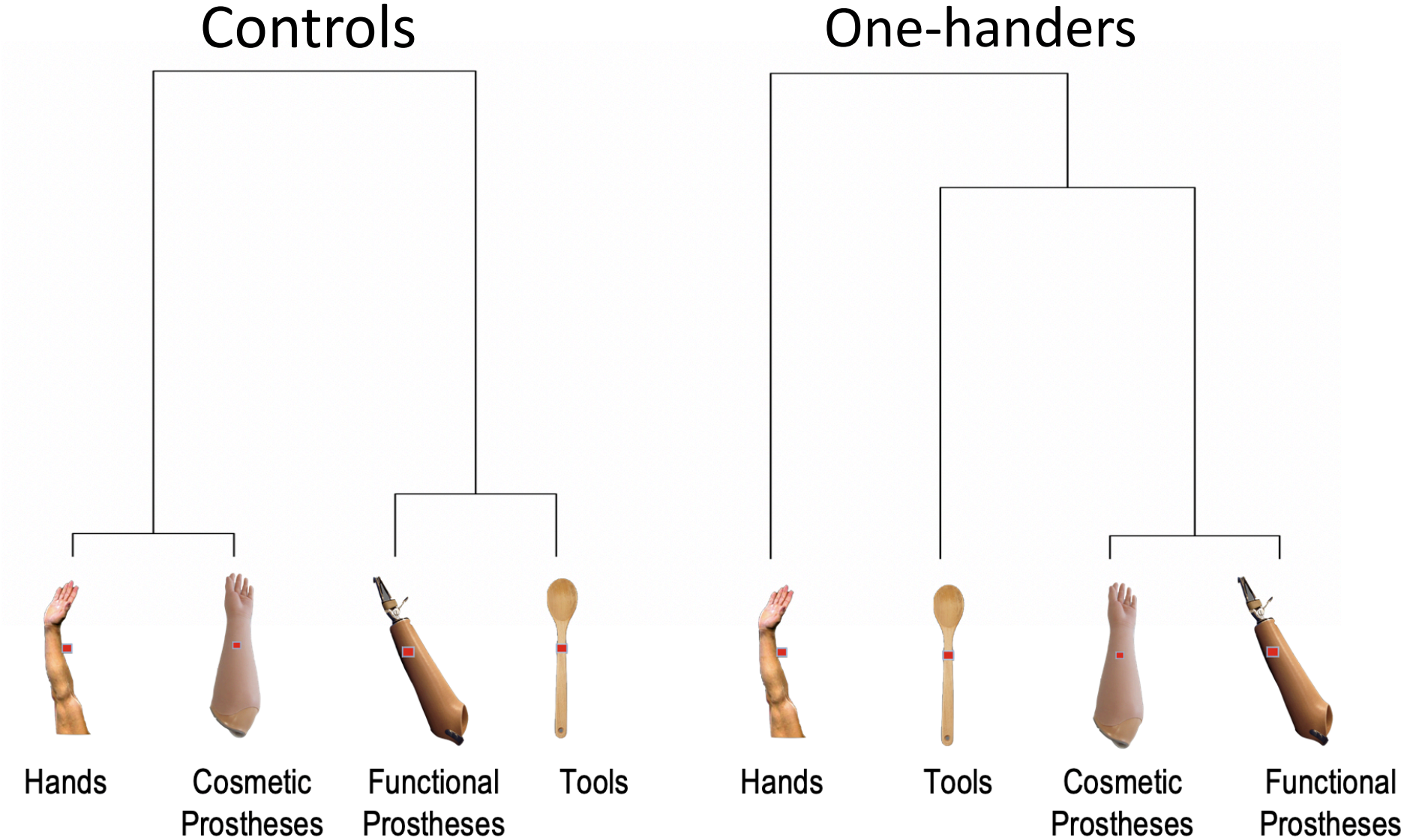
## Controls



## visual 'hand' areas



# Brain decoding of artificial limbs



# Concluions

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Neuroimaging can be a double-edged sword for clinical development

Brain plasticity is limited and is not driven by input loss

Representational similarity analysis can help us find novel representations

Some brain plasticity can be induced by meaningful input



plasticity-lab.com



UCL



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

MRC  
CBU

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welcome



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i: @dani\_clode  
w: daniclode.com

