

Hemispheres

Psychology

What the split-brain studies showed, and what the popular version gets wrong.

The two hemispheres process somewhat different functions and communicate through the corpus callosum. Severing it, as in split-brain surgery, reveals what each can do alone.

LANGUAGE, LEFT
~95%

CONNECTS VIA
corpus callosum

- Language is left-lateralised in about 95% of right-handers.
- The right hemisphere handles more spatial and face processing.
- Each hemisphere controls the opposite side of the body.
- Split-brain patients can name an object shown to the right visual field but not the left.
- They can still select it by hand.
- There is no evidence for 'left-brained' or 'right-brained' personality types.

LOOK FOR IT

Sperry and Gazzaniga: an object flashed to the left visual field could not be named, but the left hand could pick it out.

Lateralisation of specific functions is well established. The pop-psychology extension to personality is not.