

# Perception

Psychology

Bottom-up against top-down, and why both are needed.

## Gibson — direct, bottom-up

- The optic array contains enough information
- No inference required
- Affordances: objects signal their use
- Explains skilled action well
- Struggles with illusions

## Gregory — constructivist, top-down

- Perception is inference from incomplete data
- Prior knowledge fills the gaps
- Explains illusions well
- Struggles to explain accuracy

### THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Both operate. Bottom-up dominates with rich, clear stimuli; top-down dominates when input is degraded or ambiguous.

Illusions are the key evidence for top-down processing: the same retinal image is interpreted differently by context.