

- [Home](#)
- [About the CVR](#)
- [News](#)
- [Members](#)
- [Seminar Series](#)
- [Conference](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [CVR Summer School](#)
- [Research Labs](#)
- [Training at the CVR](#)
- [Partnering with the CVR](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

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Functional Architectures for Attention: Current Challenges

It is generally accepted, usually at an intuitive level, that in everyday life humans allocate visual attention in a manner which combines top-down and bottom-up mechanisms. Salient elements in the environment

command our attention, but we also direct attention in a scene according to our interests. Modeling of attention, however, be it computational or biological, is most often limited to modeling bottom-up or top-down attentional selection mechanisms only; modeling the integrated nature of visual attention is still a challenge for attention research. I will

outline the difficulties in integrating top-down and bottom-up determinants of attentional selection in a single model, review some recent attempts to do so, and propose a new approach which addresses the limitations of current models of attention.

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