Title
Sustained Attention: Exogenous or Endogenous control? Evidence by a Continuous Attentional Orienting Task (CAOT)

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/40g4d46g

Journal

ISSN
1069-7977

Authors
Casagrande, Maria
Maccari, Lisa
Marotta, Andrea
et al.

Publication Date
2009

Peer reviewed
Sustained Attention: Exogenous or Endogenous control? Evidence by a Continuous Attentional Orienting Task (CAOT)

Mara Sebastiani  
Sapienza Università di Roma

Maria Casagrande  
Sapienza Università di Roma

Antonino Raffone  
Sapienza Università di Roma

Diana Martella  
Sapienza Università di Roma

Andrea Marotta  
Sapienza Università di Roma

Lisa Maccari  
Sapienza Università di Roma

Abstract: It has been hypothesized that top-down (endogenous) attentional processes are implied in modulating sustained attention (SA) over time. In order to differentiate the involvement of endogenous and exogenous attentional processes in SA decrease over time, we originally devised a Continuous Attentional Orienting Task (CAOT), which is a combination of the Continuous Performance Task (Rosvold et al., 1956) and the Spatial Cueing paradigm (Posner, 1980). This task permits to differentiate the respective involvement of endogenous and exogenous spatial attention processes in the SA decrease over time. We expected performance in the endogenous condition, compared to the exogenous condition, to be more vulnerable to deterioration. Indeed, we observed a RT increase over time only in the endogenous cueing task condition. These results are consistent with an endogenous attentional control on sustained attention.