

## Logie, R.H. (2024) Address To The Immortal Working Memory.

Presented at the Conference Dinner for  
4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Working Memory, University of Leeds, UK, June 26, 2024.

Adapted from Burns, R. (1786/1842) To A Haggis. In A. Cunningham (Ed) *The Complete Works of Robert Burns: Poems, Songs and Correspondence*. George Virtue: London.

Fair fa' your favoured, sonsie face,	Welcome to the preferred theory which, for present purposes, you are asked to assume is sentient and can appreciate the accolade.
Great chieftain o' the theory-race!	Dominant theoretical framework,
Aboon them a' ye mak your case,	Amongst all theories you are supported by experimental cognitive and neurobiological evidence, computational modeling, and dogged determination.
Cowan, Engle alliance:	For the sake of fairness, a couple of alternative overlapping theoretical views are mentioned in passing.
Weel are ye wordy o' a place In Nature and Science	You deserve a position of high status In publication vehicles that some consider superior
Richt guid beuks there ye fill,	Work based on this theory is, of course, readily published in highly regarded scholarly journals
Your forms are like a distant hill,	The beauty of your cognitive architecture rivals that of the Alpine landscape
Your pairts canna help but thrill	Aspects of the theory can cause great excitement among scientists
In goavin data,	When exploring the outcome of well designed experiments
While thro' your pores results distil	The theory is very productive in generating hypotheses and interesting results
Insights, frae dprime and beta	There are considerable advances in knowledge arising from detailed analyses of the data
Yer loop blethers in an ordered mind,	One component of the model involves rehearsal of phonological codes to support immediate serial ordered recall of a small number of verbal items
Yer cache, colours and shapes wad bind	Another component of the model is involved in storing temporary combinations of surface features of objects.
Inhibit, update, switchin' an' ahind	There is a range of control functions, and, last but not least -
One task with anither	- the possibility of carrying out two tasks concurrently with little or no dual task cost in performance
And then, O what a glorious find, Working memory a' thegither!	A substantial discovery is that all these aspects of the multiple component model can act in concert to support task performance
Then, study for study, they spier an' strive:	Multiple experiments across multiple laboratories ask different kinds of research questions, based on alternative theories

Deil tak the weakest! on they drive,	Some models are unsuccessful and are abandoned, but many persist despite contradictory data from other labs.
Till a' their bikkerins belyve	And thereby the theoretical debates continue
Are unco rent;	And generate a remarkable lack of coherence
Then auld gumption, maist like to rive,	The outcome of the debate is that wisdom does not prevail
Gangs aff agley.	And everything falls apart
Is there an operation span	Is there a superior alternative theory?
IQ from ageing human	Or another alternative theory?
Attention that wad staw a plan,	Do we really need yet another alternative?
An'stap yer thrapple,	Too many theories spoil the scientific broth
Looks doon wi' sneering, scornfu' scan	Do these alternatives view with some disdain
On sic a model?	the multiple component working memory model?
Track the eyes and E-R-P,	There is a range of technology-based methods for collecting data
Echo-planar - for a fee,	Some of these are rather expensive
In the walie Brodmann see,	But the latter does have the advantage of revealing activation in a cortical region of interest
She'll mak it whissle;	And shows a set of BOLD responses
An' gyri an' sulci, an' lobes agree,	Activation of a range of specific brain areas -
It fair maks ye fistle.	- make researchers extremely excited
Ye scholars wha' are feelin' fou,	Talented academic researchers who, by this stage of the evening, might have imbibed a little too much alcohol
Here's an obligation fur the noo	are nevertheless required at this point in an occasion such as the one in which we now find ourselves
Charge gless with usquabae anew	to replenish their drinking vessel with whisky or a preferred alternative
Fur the end o ma story	to get the speaker to stop and let you get on with enjoying yourself
A toast tae the bard is due	it is necessary to partake of your chosen beverage in honour of Robert Burns who penned the original and vastly superior contribution to literature on which the current doggerel is based
An' tae the immortal working memory	And, if you are still awake, are not too drunk, and are amenable to expressing solidarity with some of your fellow conference delegates, you might like to express a passing interest in the target theme of this humble rendition.

Ladies and gentlemen, please raise your glasses in a toast to the Scottish National poet Robert Burns, and, to the Immortal Working Memory.