



# Cognitive Processing of Nonverbal Auditory Information

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ACH1-110



Semantics is very important to memory and perception. We have an easier time mentally manipulating and remembering stimuli that are meaningful and can be verbally described. At the very least such stimuli lend themselves to conceptual elaboration, which improves performance on most cognitive tasks. Introspectively, making sense of nonverbal stimuli, relying only or mostly on sensory or modality-specific information is more nebulous. Within the auditory domain, human voices and music fall into the category of such nonverbal stimuli. I will give a brief overview of the past research from our lab on memory and metamemory for human voices and melodies. Then I will describe some current research on human voice recognition.

Dr. Zehra Peynircioglu, Professor of Psychology at American University, earned her BA from Stanford, an MA from Princeton, and her Ph.D. from Rice University in 1983 (working with Mike Watkins). In 1999, she earned a BA in music from American University. From 1983 to 1988, she was an Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor at Bogazici University, in her native Turkey. Since 1988, she has been at American University in Washington, D.C. Her diverse research interests include memory, metamemory, bilingualism, music cognition, and curious memory and cognitive phenomena of all sorts, including the psychology of free-throw shooting in basketball. In addition to her pioneering work on the revelation effect in memory, she is known in both the music cognition field and the metacognition field for her innovative research combining the two areas. Zehra is currently on sabbatical in South Florida.