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Stimulus-Bound Behavior

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Synonyms

[Automatic behavior](#); [Stimulus-driven behavior](#)

Definition

Stimulus-bound behavior is commonly found in frontal lobe syndrome and other executive functioning disorders and is a response to a specific stimulus in one's environment – an externally oriented cognitive approach. For example, the behavior displayed seems to depend primarily upon available objects and subject predisposition, rather than the activation of a specific drive such as hunger, anger, sex drive, etc. A person exhibiting stimulus-bound behavior may feel compelled to use certain items present, regardless of an external need or any instruction to do so. When a stimulus is encountered, the person may act without thinking or considering other factors.

The behaviors are often perseverative in nature and focus on partial information. Immediate stimulus-bound behavior often does not take into account future consequences or long-term outcomes and causes difficulty with planning, organizing, and behavioral initiative.

Cross-References

- [Executive Functioning](#)
- [Frontal Lobe Syndrome](#)
- [Frontal Lobes](#)

References and Readings

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