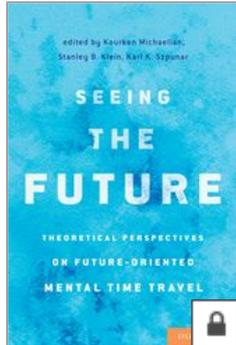


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Seeing the Future: Theoretical Perspectives on Future-Oriented Mental Time Travel

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Toward a Taxonomy of Future Thinking

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Chapter 2 presents an overview of a recent framework for organizing the concept of *prospection*—the ability to represent what might happen in the future. This framework parses prospective cognition into four basic modes of future thinking that vary in the extent to which they draw upon episodic and semantic knowledge: simulation, prediction, intention, and planning. The authors highlight how this framework can be used to draw attention to the ways in which various modes of future thinking interact with one another, generate new questions about prospective cognition, and illuminate the understanding of disorders of future thinking. The chapter concludes by considering the manner in which basic cognitive operations such as mental contrasting can be used to expand the purview of prospective cognition by building on the more basic modes of future thinking.

Keywords: Prospection, simulation, prediction, intention, planning

Toward a Taxonomy of Future Thinking

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