



***On Task:
How Our Brain Gets Things Done***

Dr. David Badre

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7:30 p.m.

Lecture: <https://go.nasa.gov/3hDx6VQ>

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How do we plan out the actions to reach a goal? Why is it hard to multitask? Why did life during the pandemic feel mentally exhausting? The human brain has a unique ability to devise new rules, plans, and goals and take the right actions to carry them out. We often do this on the fly, performing new tasks and solving problems we've never confronted before. This ability lies at the heart of our species' unique ingenuity and intelligence. Connecting goals with actions depends on a function called cognitive control, and its mechanisms in the brain remain one of the enduring mysteries in cognitive science and neuroscience. In this lecture, David Badre will introduce the neuroscience of cognitive control and discuss how the brain supports this function, as well as its impact on our lives and the way that we get things done.

David Badre is Professor of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences at Brown University, and on the faculty of the Carney Institute for Brain Science. He received his PhD from MIT in 2005 and did his postdoctoral fellowship at UC Berkeley before joining Brown as faculty in 2008. His laboratory studies the neuroscience of cognitive control and executive function. Dr. Badre's research has been recognized by several awards, including an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship in Neuroscience. He is author of the book, *On Task: How Our Brain Gets Things Done*, about the neuroscience of cognitive control.

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