

Single Case Studies vs Case Series

<u>Why Single Case Study?</u>	<u>Why Case Series?</u>
- Researchers can often gain access to only 1 patient having a given pattern of cognitive impairment - It is often assumed that every patient is unique because no 2 patients have the same pattern of brain damage	- Provides much richer data - Can actually assess the extent of variation among patients rather than simply being concerned about it - Can develop theories based on most patients within a case series, de-emphasizing patients who are 'outliers'

Strengths of Cognitive Neuropsychology

- It played a major role in forming theories of language
- Findings from brain-damaged patients have often had a substantial impact on memory theories

Limitations of Cognitive Neuropsychology

- The crucial modular system approach is too strong
- The other major theoretical assumptions also seem too extreme
- The assumption that the cognitive performance of patients provides fairly direct evidence concerning the impact of brain damage on previously intact cognitive systems
 - o However, some impact of brain damage may be camouflaged because patients develop compensatory strategies as they recover and exhibit considerable neural plasticity
- Historically, there has been relatively little interest shown in the details of brain functioning and cognitive neuroscience
- There is too much emphasis on single-case studies