



Hosted by GINGER CAMPBELL, MD

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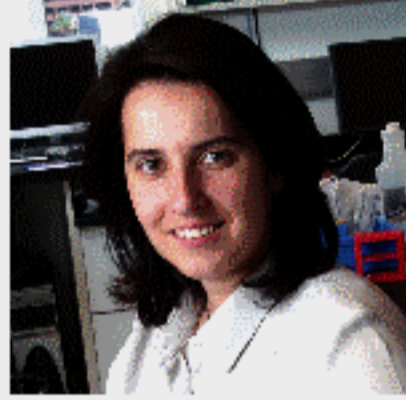
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Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 8:11 AM

Magic and the Brain (BSP 72)

GINGER CAMPBELL, MD

Neuroscientists [Dr. Stephen Macknik](#) and [Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde](#) have an unusual hobby: Magic! Actually, it is more than a hobby since for the last several years they have been working with leading magicians from around the world to create a new field: the neuroscience of magic. In [Episode 72](#) of the *Brain Science Podcast* I talked with them about their new book *Sleights of Mind: What the Neuroscience of Magic Reveals about Our Everyday Deceptions*, which is the first book to explore the neuroscience of magic.



Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde

With the help of their co-author [Sandra Blakeslee](#), Macknik and Martinez-Conde provide an excellent overview of this new and exciting field. Their book also provides an excellent review of many of the principles that I have introduced in the last 4 years.

[Listen to Episode 72 \(Right Click to download\)](#)

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Dr. Stephen Macknik

Links and References

- [Stephen Macknik, PhD](#): Director, Laboratory of Behavioral Neurophysiology, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, Arizona
- [Susan Martinez-Conde](#): Director, Laboratory of Visual Science, Barrow Neurological Institute
- [Sleights of Mind: What the Neuroscience of Magic Reveals about Our Everyday Deceptions](#) by Stephen L. Macknik, Susana Martinez-Conde, Sandra Blakeslee
- <http://sleightsofmind.com>: for videos and links to their *Scientific American* articles

Scientists mentioned during the podcast

- [David Hubel](#): Nobel Prize for vision research
- [Margaret Livingston](#) (Harvard)
- [Zachary Mainen](#) (Cold Springs Harbor, NY)
- [Daniel Simons](#) (University of Illinois): change blindness
- [Derren Brown](#) (London): memory fallibility
- [Jose-Manual Alonso](#) (SUNY): neural basis of visual attention

Magicians mentioned during the interview

- [James Randi](#): famous proponent of skeptical thinking
- [Juan Tamariz](#): This Spanish magician is an important magic theorist
- [Penn and Teller](#): Go to <http://sleightsofmind.com> to see a video of the balls and cup illusion discussed in BSP 72.

Announcements:

- I will be giving a live talk at the London Skeptics in the Pub on **May 11, 2011**. Stay tuned for more details or visit <http://london.skepticsinthepub.org/>.
- The *Brain Science Podcast* Discussion Forum is moving to [Goodreads.com](#). [Click here](#) to visit our new group.

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