



**Institute of Information Processing and
Decision Making (IIPDM)**
and
**The Max Wertheimer Minerva Center for
Cognitive Processes and Human Performance**



Invite you to a public lecture by

Prof. Endel Tulving

Rotman Research Institute, Toronto

Title:

Episodic memory: In what sense is it unique?

Many different kinds of learning and memory exist, from very simple non-associative forms to highly sophisticated and complex ones. Among them, episodic memory—memory concerned with remembering past experiences—is unique in several ways. Episodic memory is unique in that it is the only form of memory that involves the past; all other forms involve the present and the future and have nothing more to do with the past than any other biological process. The episodic record of the past can be “read” by, or is expressed through, a unique form of conscious awareness called “autonoetic” awareness. No other form of memory involves this form of consciousness. Episodic memory is also unique in that it exists, as far as is known, only in human beings. There is no evidence that any other animals have human-like episodic memory capabilities. Episodic memory and autonoetic consciousness probably gave rise to the human ability to be aware of the future. This awareness (“proscopic chronesthesia”) may have played a crucial role in the evolution of human culture and civilization, and thus contributed to human uniqueness.

[Time and Location](#)

[Wednesday, May 28, 2003 at 10:30](#)

[Rabin Building, 8th Floor – in the Observation Gallery](#)

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