

Affective Space and Emotional Time: Learning from Lǐ Bái (李白) and Lǐ Qīngzhào (李清照)

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Abstract

*The cognitive processing of space and time has been widely researched in cognitive science. In recent years, our understanding of these topics has been advanced not only through traditional neurocognitive approaches, but also by research in embodied cognition, enactivism, and related frameworks. However, leaving aside a few areas, such as certain parts of memory research, this work has largely ignored emotion. In *What Literature Teaches Us About Emotion*, I have argued that literature often provides us with valuable, ecologically rich depictions of cognition and emotion in lived experience and thus may play a role in cognitive and affective science. In keeping with this view, the following essay takes up two poems. One focuses on the experience of space; the other focuses on the experience of time. Both emphasize the bearing of emotion on such (spatial or temporal) experience. The analysis of these poems, when combined with research findings in the neuroscience of space and time, suggests ways of furthering our understanding of such topics as spatial orientation, body image, and the experience of time dilation and contraction.*

Keywords: emotion; space; time; Lǐ Bái; Lǐ Qīngzhào.