

Changing the Brain's Real Estate

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The human brain evolves tremendously, simply put, is plastic, and prone to changes when exposed to new stimuli. Until the mid-1960s, the adult brain was thought to be “hard-wired,” which could not be mutated to reorganize its structure and function. However, this fundamental notion underwent a paradigm shift when studies on rhesus monkeys proved that the mammalian brain could be conditioned to respond to a particular stimulus naturally. When a new map develops in the cerebral cortex out of an existing map, which leads to cortical remapping, the cognitive process of cortical remapping can be interpreted efficiently by studying phantom limbs which is a phenomenon experienced in patients who have lost a limb. Interestingly, these patients can feel a limb that no longer exists! How is a map changing? How is it not rigid like the conventional ones?

Neuronotes

The Neuroscience of Domestication

Bharati Venkatachalam



From being hunter-gatherers, humans switched to agriculture about 12,000 years ago. This new age saw an increase in plant and animal breeding catering to diverse human needs. Different animals were domesticated for different purposes. However, Darwin noticed that all domesticated animals had similar features. So how are all these animals belonging to unrelated species showing the same traits? Is their motivation to approach and interact with humans influenced by specific genes? This article highlights recent studies that aim to answer these questions.

Neuroscience & Technology-Optogenetics

Shreya Rao



This article talks about how technology and neuroscience can be connected and can make a huge impact in the field of medicine and therapy. It also emphasises on the role of engineering and how useful engineering can be when coupled with biology, although they are two contrasting fields.