

## HST.723J/9.285J - Neural Coding and Perception of Sound

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### Carlyon et al. (2001)

- This article reports a series of experiments demonstrating that auditory stream segregation, an effect commonly supposed to be pre-attentive, can in fact be influenced by attention.
- Whether perceptual-organization processes are automatic or under attentional control is an important and currently hot question.
- The question is difficult to address experimentally with the tools of psychophysics, because listeners can't be asked to not pay attention to a stimulus, and yet report something about that stimulus; see how the authors used the fact that stream segregation "builds-up" over time in order to demonstrate the influence of attention.
- Reading recent articles on this question - such as: **Macken et al. (2003)**. Does auditory streaming require attention? Evidence from attention selectivity in short-term memory. *JEP:HPP* **29**: 43-51 - would certainly help you put things into perspective, and is highly recommended.