The Role of Day-planning Devices in Prospective Memory

In order to address the question of whether reliance on day-planning devices is a strategy employed to compensate for poor prospective memory capabilities, the prospective memory performance of individuals who reported frequent use of day-planning devices to record their intended future actions was compared with that of individuals who reported little or no use of such devices. Those who reported employing day-planning devices in their daily lives outperformed those who did not on some, but not all of the study’s four objective measures of prospective memory. These differences in performance appeared on the more naturalistic tasks, tested both within and outside of the laboratory. Additionally, participants’ ratings on some measures of metamemory as a function of reported reliance on planning devices were examined, and the relation of such metamemory assessments to prospective memory performance was explored.