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'Discovering the Past'

It's often said that individuals lacking episodic memory are 'stuck in time'. That might simply be to say that they lack the capacity for mental time travel - imaginative projection into the past and future. If so, the claim is probably true, but not particularly interesting. A more interesting construal of the claim is that episodic memory is necessary for some aspects of temporal understanding. I distinguish various aspects of temporal understanding, and argue for two claims. First, episodic memory is not necessary for an understanding of the past as such - nor is it clear that it could furnish one with such understanding. Second, to the extent that episodic memory *is* constitutively involved in temporal understanding, it is in the same way involved in our understanding of space. So, we should rethink the centrality of time in our accounts of episodic memory.