

Scientists announce they can successfully read minds

Written by Paul Smith



SCIENTISTS in Canada have announced they can read minds.

The researchers at the University of Western Ontario can monitor brain activity so accurately that they can predict what a person is going to do before they do it.

The stunning breakthrough has massive implications and brings science fiction concepts like 'precognition' featured in Tom Cruise blockbuster *Minority Report* closer to science fact.

Lead researcher Jason Gallivan said: "This is a considerable step forward in our understanding of how the human brain plans actions."

The research is still in its infancy but already it is possible to know what someone is going to do just moments before it happens.

The team used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) while they performed one of three hand movements - grasping the top of an object, grasping the bottom of the object, or simply reaching out and touching the object.

Scientists announce they can successfully read minds

Written by Paul Smith

The scientists found that by using the signals from many brain regions, they could predict what a volunteer was about to do.

The findings raise huge philosophical questions about free will and potentially open a door to using the same science to stop criminal activity or control populations.

However, the immediate clinical application is to help people better control advanced prosthetic limbs.

Mr Gallivan said: "Being able to predict a human's desired movements using brain signals takes us one step closer to using those signals to control prosthetic limbs in movement-impaired patient populations, like those who suffer from spinal cord injuries or locked-in syndrome."

The findings are published in the Journal of Neuroscience.