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That's How it Goes with Fictive Motion

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Abstract: That's How it Goes with Fictive Motion

Fictive motion sentences, such as *The road goes into the hills*, include a motion verb but express no actual motion. They are known to include simulated motion that can be influenced by terrain and other factors (e.g., road that goes through a bumpy field versus a smooth field) (Matlock, 2004; Richardson & Matlock, 2007). In English, fictive motion sentences can include a manner verb, for instance, *race* in *The road races into the hills*. The current work investigates whether and how manner information, such as speed, can influence fictive motion comprehension. Participants drew a sketch to depict a fictive motion sentence that featured a fast, slow, or neutral manner verb (e.g., a picture of a road and hills for *The road goes into the hills*). The results, for instance, greater road length with fast manner verbs, suggest that manner can influence fictive motion comprehension under certain conditions.