

No privileged link between intentionality and causation: Generalizable effects of agency in language  
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Consider a causal claim like “Tom caused the train delay.” Previous research has shown that the extent to which Tom is seen to act intentionally (i.e., through his own agency) affects the extent to which people agree with this claim. But is this effect of perceived agency a unique phenomenon to causal judgments? Across four experiments, we suggest that this may *not* be the case. Instead, perceived agency seems to affect people’s understanding of both causal and non-causal events—with implications for causal cognition, broader research in agency, and the intersections between both and linguistics.