Title: Social Reactivation of Fear Engrams Enhances Recall and Reinstatement

Authors: Abby Basya Finkelstein[1,2*], Héloïse Leblanc[1,3], Rebecca Cole[1], Troy Gallerani[1,3], Anahita Vieira[1,4], Yosif Zaki[1,5], Steve Ramirez[1*]

Affiliations:

[1]Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA.

[2]Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA.

[3]Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA.

[4]The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA.

[5]Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYC, NY, USA.

*Correspondence to: afinkelstein@fas.harvard.edu and dvsteve@bu.edu

Abstract: The power of one's social environment to modulate cognition is well documented, but the processes by which social experiences impact the cellular substrates of memory remain unknown. We show that social experience, but not physical stress, causes reactivation of fear engrams in the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus, and optogenetic stimulation of social ensembles containing these reactivated cells is sufficient to drive fearful behavior. This endogenous reactivation in the dentate gyrus during social stress is followed by a context-specific enhancement of fear recall and reinstatement. Our findings suggest that social interactions can reactivate pre-existing engrams and thereby strengthen discrete memories.

One Sentence Summary: Exposure to stressed conspecifics reactivates fear memory traces in the dentate gyrus and strengthens subsequent recall.

Main Text: For group-living species such as humans and rodents, conspecific interactions directly impact social learning and memory(*1*, *2*), and pervasively shape emotion(*3–5*), attention(*6*), and cognitive ability(*7*). Higher-order cognitive processes such as memory within a social brain are thus interlaced with social influences. While a traditional laboratory rodent cage

offers limited inter-individual experiences compared to the natural world, there still exists a rich multi-modal landscape of communication, including auditory calls[8–11], chemical signaling[12, 13], and tactile stimulation[14, 15]. Rodents establish social hierarchies even in single-sex cages containing a small number of animals[16–18], and the dominance relationships between rodents can influence how they learn from one another[19]. The absence of such social encounters (e.g. single housing animals) results in cognitive impairments and depression-like phenotypes[20], likely obscuring how the social brain has evolved to function. In order for memory research to be ethologically relevant it is important to disentangle the relationship between social context and an individual's memory processing. Recent research suggests that the dentate gyrus (DG) of the hippocampus and the basolateral amygdala (BLA) serve as hubs for the enduring physiological and structural changes that accompany memory or "engrams."[21][22–25] As social interaction recruits hippocampal[26] and amygdalar[27] circuitry, we hypothesized that pre-existing engrams in these regions can be modulated by social experiences and lead to changes in memory expression.

To assess how social experiences influence existing memories, male and female mice were subjected to social or non-social salient events in the day between contextual fear conditioning (FC) and memory recall tests (**Fig. 1A**). A socially salient experience was provided in various different forms: free interaction with a juvenile intruder placed in the subject's homecage[28, 29] (Juvenile Intruder group); exposure to a recently shocked cagemate through a 1-way mirror that permits unidirectional visual access for the shocked mouse to see the cagemates on the other side (1-Way Mirror group) or through a 1-way mirror with a black covering on the shocked mouse's side (Opaque group) in the homecage; or non-obstructed interaction with a recently shocked cagemate (Full Interaction group). A non-social salient

experience was provided in the form of individual restraint stress in a tube (Restraint group) (**Supplementary Methods, Fig. 1a**). Additional control groups were exposed to novel objects including the 1-way mirror (Mirror No Mouse group) and the tubes (Tubes group) but did not undergo the associated social or stressful stimuli (**Supplementary Methods**). Males exhibited

55   higher levels of baseline freezing and froze more than females after the first two shocks of fear conditioning, after which freezing levels were similar (**Fig. 1B**), corroborating tone-cued experiments that report higher levels of freezing in males during acquisition(*30*). For males, Juvenile Intruder groups exhibited amplified context-specific recall compared to Cagemate control groups; 1-Way Mirror groups exhibited amplified context-specific recall compared to

60   Opaque, Full Interaction, and Mirror No Mouse groups; and Restraint groups exhibited similar recall as Tube controls (**Fig. 1C-D, 1F-G**). Positively valenced socially salient encounters with females did not amplify freezing compared to cagemate controls (**Fig. S2**). For females, 1-Way Mirror induced the opposite effect than for males, lowering context-specific recall compared to Mirror No Mouse, while Restraint had no effect on freezing (**Fig. 1E and 1H**). These results

65   reveal that socially salient, but not directly physical, events alter subsequent contextual fear recall without impacting generalization, in a sex-specific manner.

Hereafter, we focused on socially-induced memory enhancement in male mice, conjecturing that the enhancement of freezing during recall tests was due to socially-induced reactivation of fear engrams. While outside the scope of our current study, we also speculate that

70   the dampening of recall in females is due to a mechanism involving interference(*31–33*) by the formation of a social memory, which has been suggested to be longer-lasting and based on different circuitry than in males(*34, 35*). We next tested whether memory was still susceptible to socially-driven enhancement after extinction learning. Freezing during the reinstatement test was

highly correlated with freezing during the first 3 minutes of the second extinction session in groups subjected to experiences that did not affect fear recall (Cagemates, Tube, Opaque, and Full Interaction groups) (**Fig. 2B-D**). This finding indicates that the experience between extinction and reinstatement test had not modulated reinstatement. However, in the Juvenile Intruder and 1-Way Mirror groups (i.e. groups that exhibited enhanced fear recall after social experiences) freezing levels during the reinstatement test were uncorrelated from freezing levels during extinction, indicating that the social experience had indeed impacted reinstatement (**Fig. 2E**). To quantify the degree of reinstatement, we subtracted the freezing rate during the first three minutes of the second extinction session from the freezing rate during the first 3 minutes of the reinstatement test. We found that, in congruence with the recall results (**Fig. 1D**), 1-Way Mirror groups exhibited a greater degree of reinstatement than the Opaque or Full Interaction groups (**Fig. 2F**), suggesting that visually-perceived social context can bias the recently shocked animal's distressed emissions and that social buffering via physical interaction with cagemates can mitigate these emissions. Here we defined reinstators as mice who froze greater than or equal to 5% higher during the reinstatement test than during the first three minutes of the last extinction session; ~15% of mice were reinstators for 1-Way Mirror, (**Fig. 2G**) and a generalization test showed that their reinstatement was context-specific(*36*) (**Fig. 2H**). As social hierarchy status can determine degree of social learning, we also tested whether the dominance status of the stressed mouse, as defined by dominance tube tests, influenced the cagemates' reinstatement behavior (**Fig. S5A**). Cagemates exhibited similar reinstatement scores after exposure to the most dominant vs most subordinate stressed individual, suggesting that dominance role does not impact influence on cagemates' fear memory (**Fig. S5B**). Collectively,

these findings demonstrate that exposure to auditory-olfactory stimuli from a stressed cagemate induces context-specific reinstatement of fear.

To determine whether fear memories are reactivated during the social experience for males, we used a cFos-based activity-dependent viral strategy (**Fig. 3A, left**) to track fear engrams processed in the DG and BLA post-fear conditioning (**Fig. 3C**). Juvenile Intruder groups had more active cells, as identified by cFos expression, than 1-Way Mirror groups in both the DG and BLA (**Fig. 3D**). Both Juvenile Intruder and 1-Way Mirror groups exhibited reactivation of fear ensemble cells in the DG, and this effect was not observed in Restraint or Immediate Shock groups, nor does it occur in a neutral context(*37*), indicating the socially-specific nature of this reactivation. (**Fig. 3E, left**). Conversely, in the BLA, both Juvenile Intruder and Restraint groups displayed reactivation of tagged cells (**Fig. 3E, right**). We observed a significant correlation between the number of reactivated cells in the DG and in the BLA in only the Restraint groups (**Fig. 2H, Table S2**). To test whether the reactivation of the fear memory was specific to events happening close in time to when engram cells were active, we tracked engram cells' reactivation in 1-Way Mirror and Restraint groups following a two day extinction protocol (**Fig. 3A**), after which mice no longer expressed fear in the original context (**Fig. 3B**). The number of cells active during the two types of experience did not differ in either brain region (**Fig. 3F**). Reactivation of fear ensemble cells occurred in the BLA during both social and non-social stress, and in the DG only during the social experience (**Fig. 3G**). Collectively, these data suggest that specifically social situations reactivate subsets of fear engrams in the DG.

We next used an activity-dependent chemogenetic strategy to test whether DG fear ensembles active during the social experience were necessary for the subsequent enhancement in

memory recall (**Fig. S4A**). Intriguingly, the EYFP control group, which received intraperitoneal

CNO (**Supplementary Methods**) prior to the social experience, froze significantly less than

non-injected animals (**Fig. S4C**), ostensibly due to a combination of injection-related stress and

CNO metabolites(*38*). The EYFP group did not freeze significantly less than saline controls,

supporting a role of injection-related stress in blocking the effect **(Fig. S4C)**. While the impact of

CNO injection occludes our ability to determine the impact of hM4Di inhibition in the

experimental group, subsequent generalization tests revealed that the EYFP and hM4Di groups

exhibited significantly different variances in context-specificity of fear: while the EYFP group

exhibited a normal distribution, the hM4di group did not pass normality tests and was skewed

toward lower difference scores (i.e. high generalization) (**Fig. S4D-E**). This experiment indicates

that preventing activation of the fear engram during the social encounter peturbs the specificity

of subsequent fear expression.

Next, we wanted to investigate the functional properties of the cells which were active

during exposure to a stressed cagemate in previously fear-conditioned animals. To this end, we

tagged DG or BLA cells with channelrhodopsin-2 during our 1-way mirror paradigm (**Fig. 4A-**

D; See Methods). The following day, these cells were stimulated in a novel context to test their

capacity to drive fearful behavior. Importantly, the size of the labeled ensembles did not differ

between fear conditioned and non-fear conditioned animals (**Fig. 4E**), and although stimulation

of cells active in a neutral setting after fear conditioning does not drive freezing(*39*), 20Hz

stimulation of the DG ensembles active during the social experience drove significantly higher

levels of freezing during the light-on sessions as well as de-arousing allogrooming(*40*) in the

light-off period following stimulation, specifically in previously fear conditioned animals (**Fig.**

4J, 4K). Although cells previously active during fear conditioning FC were also reactivated in

the BLA during both the 1-way mirror and restraint stress groups (**Fig. 4H**), counterbalanced 20Hz and 4Hz stimulation of cells tagged during 1-way mirror in the BLA did not drive fear compared to non-fear conditioned animals (**Fig. 4F, 4G**). A subset of the animals subsequently reinstated the extinguished fear memory (**Fig. 4H, 4L**). These results demonstrate that optogenetic stimulation of DG cells active during exposure to a stressed cagemate through a 1-way mirror drives fear only if mice have previously been fear conditioned.

Taken together, our main results are threefold: mice who have undergone socially salient experiences exhibit enhanced, context-specific memory recall and reinstatement; DG-mediated fear engrams are reactivated when male mice are exposed to our 1-way mirror experience as well as to juvenile intruders; these reactivated cells are sufficient to drive freezing behavior followed by de-arousing grooming when optically stimulated in a neutral context. These results suggest that in males, socially salient but not physically stressful events reactivate memory traces and thus potentiate subsequent memory expression, in agreement with the theory that internal reactivation of ensembles during memory incubation can strengthen recall(*41–44*). The impact of exposure to a stressed conspecific through the 1-way mirror compared to the opaque wall reveals that distressed mice emit different auditory-olfactory stimuli depending on their perceived social context. The lack of effect of full interaction with a recently shocked cagemate could be due to social buffering(*2*) of the distressed mouse's emissions or to the intensity of direct, physical social contact with the distressed cagemate.

Our findings provide evidence that socially-induced reactivation of memory engrams can strengthen the behavioral expression of the memory. Consistent with this notion, the reactivation of fear engrams is thought to be the mechanism by which multiple exposures to the contexts(*44*) or cues(*41*) present during conditioning can strengthen memories in the days after learning. We

165   demonstrate that a single social encounter can reactivate a subset of the DG fear engram (**Fig. 3**)

and produce similar enhancement of memory expression (**Fig. 1**). Strikingly, the degree of

cellular reactivation during the social encounter was similar to previously reported results in

animals re-exposed to the original fear context(*45*). Given the malleability of engrams(*46*), (*47*),

the natural reactivation of a fear memory ensemble during a stressful social experience might be

170   expected to add additional negative valence from the current experience to the representation of

the former, contributing to the observed enhancement of fear (**Fig. 1**) beyond the effects of

reactivation in a neutral context by associated cues or context.

Concurrent tracking of fear engrams in the DG and BLA during varied experiences

revealed distinct patterns of reactivation. During restraint, there is non-significant reactivation in

175   the DG, and this small amount of reactivation is potentially driven by the correlated significant

level of reactivation in the BLA (**Fig. 3E, 3H**). However, DG fear engram reactivation during

social experience with a stressed conspecific is discorrelated with BLA engram reactivation

(**Table S3**), suggesting that social inputs to the DG induce an engram excitation process distinct

from non-social stress. The increased level of DG activity during Juvenile Intruder compared to

180   1-way mirror (**Fig. 3D)** in the animal's homecage highlights the DG's role in encoding

experiences beyond physical contexts per se(*48*). We posit that the higher level of activity in the

BLA and DG during exposure to a juvenile intruder than in the 1-way mirror paradigm reflects

the richness of direct social interaction during the juvenile intruder's presence that is not

permitted in the 1-way mirror setup.

185   Our data also suggest that the DG is concurrently reactivating a pre-existing fear engram

and actively processing social experiences, as evidenced by the significantly different levels of

cFos-positive cells (**Fig. 3D, left**) between types of social stress. Optogenetic tagging during a

social experience revealed that the total number of cells was the same regardless of prior fear conditioning (**Fig. 4E**), and that stimulation drove fearful behavior only in fear conditioned animals (**Fig. 4J and 4K**), thus reflecting the prior-experience-dependent nature of this light induced freezing. The coactivation of ensembles leads to co-allocation and the linking of memories, as shown in both mouse(*49*) and human(*50*) studies. We therefore posit that the reactivated subset of the fear ensemble might therefore have become co-allocated to form part of the ensemble encoding the social encounter, perhaps explaining why activating DG cells tagged during the social experience drove fear only in animals that had previously been fear conditioned, although the total number of cells active during the social experience did not differ (**Fig. 4E-G, lower**). In the context of the social experience, however, this functional capacity of the active ensemble was quiescent; mice did not freeze during the social encounter itself (example **Movie S1** and **Movie S2**).

We propose that the capacity of social experiences to reactivate memories contributes to the enriching effects of a social environment on cognition(*7, 51*). From an evolutionary perspective, a stressed conspecific or their ambient auditory-olfactory emissions might signal a dangerous situation in which it is adaptive to hone one's own memories to guide decision making. Together, our findings illuminate how the mnemonic contents of an organism's brain may be modulated throughout the course of social interactions to bias future behavioral responses.

References and Notes:

1. W. Hoppitt, K. N. Laland, Chapter 3 Social Processes Influencing Learning in Animals: A Review of the Evidence. *Advances in the Study of Behavior* (2008), pp. 105–165.

2. H. Leblanc, S. Ramirez, Linking Social Cognition to Learning and Memory. *J. Neurosci.* **40**, 8782–8798 (2020).

3. J. A. Williamson, J. Austin Williamson, Social support, mood, and relationship satisfaction at the trait and social levels, , doi:10.17077/etd.vkde3xr7.

4. R. D. Reavis, L. J. Donohue, M. C. Upchurch, Friendship, Negative Peer Experiences, and Daily Positive and Negative Mood. *Social Development*. **24** (2015), pp. 833–851.

5. R. Neumann, F. Strack, "Mood contagion": The automatic transfer of mood between persons. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. **79** (2000), pp. 211–223.

6. A. Caplin, J. Leahy, F. Matějka, Social Learning and Selective Attention (2015), , doi:10.3386/w21001.

7. V. R. Heimer-McGinn, T. B. Wise, B. M. Hemmer, J. N. T. Dayaw, V. L. Templer, Social housing enhances acquisition of task set independently of environmental enrichment: A longitudinal study in the Barnes maze. *Learn. Behav.* (2020), doi:10.3758/s13420-020-00418-5.

8. T. Peleh, A. Eltokhi, C. Pitzer, Longitudinal analysis of ultrasonic vocalizations in mice from infancy to adolescence: Insights into the vocal repertoire of three wild-type strains in two different social contexts. *PLoS One*. **14**, e0220238 (2019).

9. G. A. Castellucci, D. Calbick, D. McCormick, The temporal organization of mouse ultrasonic vocalizations. *PLoS One*. **13**, e0199929 (2018).

10. M. Wöhr, D. Seffer, R. K. W. Schwarting, Studying Socio-Affective Communication in Rats through Playback of Ultrasonic Vocalizations. *Current Protocols in Neuroscience* (2016), pp. 8.35.1–8.35.17.

11. N. Simola, S. M. Brudzynski, Repertoire and Biological Function of Ultrasonic Vocalizations in Adolescent and Adult Rats. *Handbook of Ultrasonic Vocalization - A Window into the Emotional Brain* (2018), pp. 177–186.

12. E. Biasi, L. Silvotti, R. Tirindelli, Pheromone detection in rodents. *Neuroreport*. **12** (2001), pp. A81–A84.

13. T. W. Bredy, M. Barad, Social modulation of associative fear learning by pheromone communication. *Learn. Mem.* **16**, 12–18 (2009).

14. C. L. Ebbesen, E. Bobrov, R. P. Rao, M. Brecht, Highly structured, partner-sex- and subject-sex-dependent cortical responses during social facial touch. *Nat. Commun.* **10**, 4634 (2019).

15. M. J. Hertenstein, *The Communicative Functions of Touch in Humans, Nonhuman Primates, and Rats: A Review and Synthesis of the Empirical Research*.

16. C. M. Williamson, W. Lee, J. P. Curley, Temporal dynamics of social hierarchy formation and maintenance in male mice. *Animal Behaviour*. **115** (2016), pp. 259–272.

17. Z. Fan, H. Zhu, T. Zhou, S. Wang, Y. Wu, H. Hu, Using the tube test to measure social hierarchy in mice. *Nat. Protoc.* **14**, 819–831 (2019).

18. T. H. Barker, R. P. George, G. S. Howarth, A. L. Whittaker, Assessment of housing density, space allocation and social hierarchy of laboratory rats on behavioural measures of welfare. *PLoS One*. **12**, e0185135 (2017).

19. C. E. Jones, M.-H. Monfils, Dominance status predicts social fear transmission in laboratory rats. *Anim. Cogn.* **19**, 1051–1069 (2016).

20. N. Liu, Y. Wang, A. Y. An, C. Banker, Y.-H. Qian, J. M. O'Donnell, Single housing-induced effects on cognitive impairment and depression-like behavior in male and female mice involve neuroplasticity-related signaling. *Eur. J. Neurosci.* **52**, 2694–2704 (2020).

21. S. A. Josselyn, S. Tonegawa, Memory engrams: Recalling the past and imagining the future. *Science*. **367** (2020), doi:10.1126/science.aaw4325.

22. P. Davis, L. G. Reijmers, The dynamic nature of fear engrams in the basolateral amygdala. *Brain Res. Bull.* **141**, 44–49 (2018).

23. P. H. Janak, K. M. Tye, From circuits to behaviour in the amygdala. *Nature*. **517** (2015), pp. 284–292.

24. S. Duvarci, D. Pare, Amygdala microcircuits controlling learned fear. *Neuron*. **82**, 966–980 (2014).

25. X. Sun, M. J. Bernstein, M. Meng, S. Rao, A. T. Sørensen, L. Yao, X. Zhang, P. O. Anikeeva, Y. Lin, Functionally Distinct Neuronal Ensembles within the Memory Engram. *Cell*. **181**, 410–423.e17 (2020).

26. A. Montagrin, C. Saiote, D. Schiller, The social hippocampus. *Hippocampus*. **28** (2018), pp. 672–679.

27. K. M. Gothard, Multidimensional processing in the amygdala. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* **21**, 565–575 (2020).

28. A. C. Felix-Ortiz, K. M. Tye, Amygdala inputs to the ventral hippocampus bidirectionally modulate social behavior. *J. Neurosci.* **34**, 586–595 (2014).

29. E. B. Defensor, M. J. Corley, R. J. Blanchard, D. Caroline Blanchard, Facial expressions of mice in aggressive and fearful contexts. *Physiology & Behavior*. **107** (2012), pp. 680–685.

30. J. W. Clark, S. P. A. Drummond, D. Hoyer, L. H. Jacobson, Sex differences in mouse models of fear inhibition: Fear extinction, safety learning, and fear–safety discrimination. *British Journal of Pharmacology*. **176** (2019), pp. 4149–4158.

31. C. Forcato, V. L. Burgos, P. F. Argibay, V. A. Molina, M. E. Pedreira, H. Maldonado, Reconsolidation of declarative memory in humans. *Learning & Memory*. **14** (2007), pp.

295–303.

32. J. C. K. Chan, J. A. LaPaglia, Impairing existing declarative memory in humans by disrupting reconsolidation. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **110**, 9309–9313 (2013).

33. P. Gisquet-Verrier, D. C. Riccio, Memory integration: An alternative to the consolidation/reconsolidation hypothesis. *Progress in Neurobiology*. **171** (2018), pp. 15–31.

34. R.-M. Bluthe´, R. Dantzer, Social recognition does not involve vasopressinergic neurotransmission in female rats. *Brain Research*. **535** (1990), pp. 301–304.

35. D. H. Thor, Testosterone and persistence of social investigation in laboratory rats. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology*. **94** (1980), pp. 970–976.

36. D. Mobbs, R. Adolphs, M. S. Fanselow, L. F. Barrett, J. E. LeDoux, K. Ressler, K. M. Tye, Viewpoints: Approaches to defining and investigating fear. *Nat. Neurosci.* **22**, 1205–1216 (2019).

37. K. Z. Tanaka, A. Pevzner, A. B. Hamidi, Y. Nakazawa, J. Graham, B. J. Wiltgen, Cortical Representations Are Reinstated by the Hippocampus during Memory Retrieval. *Neuron*. **84** (2014), pp. 347–354.

38. S. V. Mahler, G. Aston-Jones, CNO Evil? Considerations for the Use of DREADDs in Behavioral Neuroscience. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. **43** (2018), pp. 934–936.

39. X. Liu, S. Ramirez, P. T. Pang, C. B. Puryear, A. Govindarajan, K. Deisseroth, S. Tonegawa, Optogenetic stimulation of a hippocampal engram activates fear memory recall. *Nature*. **484**, 381–385 (2012).

40. A. V. Kalueff, A. M. Stewart, C. Song, K. C. Berridge, A. M. Graybiel, J. C. Fentress, Neurobiology of rodent self-grooming and its value for translational neuroscience. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* **17**, 45–59 (2016).

41. J. Kim, J.-T. Kwon, H.-S. Kim, S. A. Josselyn, J.-H. Han, Memory recall and modifications by activating neurons with elevated CREB. *Nat. Neurosci.* **17**, 65–72 (2014).

42. S. J. Sara, Strengthening the shaky trace through retrieval. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* **1**, 212–213 (2000).

43. C. L. Pickens, S. A. Golden, T. Adams-Deutsch, S. G. Nair, Y. Shaham, Long-lasting incubation of conditioned fear in rats. *Biol. Psychiatry*. **65**, 881–886 (2009).

44. M. C. Inda, E. V. Muravieva, C. M. Alberini, Memory retrieval and the passage of time: from reconsolidation and strengthening to extinction. *J. Neurosci.* **31**, 1635–1643 (2011).

45. B. K. Chen, N. J. Murawski, C. Cincotta, O. McKissick, A. Finkelstein, A. B. Hamidi, E. Merfeld, E. Doucette, S. L. Grella, M. Shpokayte, Y. Zaki, A. Fortin, S. Ramirez, Artificially Enhancing and Suppressing Hippocampus-Mediated Memories. *Curr. Biol.* **29**,

315   1885–1894.e4 (2019).

46. S. Ramirez, X. Liu, P.-A. Lin, J. Suh, M. Pignatelli, R. L. Redondo, T. J. Ryan, S. Tonegawa, Creating a false memory in the hippocampus. *Science*. **341**, 387–391 (2013).

47. R. L. Redondo, J. Kim, A. L. Arons, S. Ramirez, X. Liu, S. Tonegawa, Bidirectional switch of the valence associated with a hippocampal contextual memory engram. *Nature*. **513**, 426–430 (2014).

48. F. Stefanini, L. Kushnir, J. C. Jimenez, J. H. Jennings, N. I. Woods, G. D. Stuber, M. A. Kheirbek, R. Hen, S. Fusi, A Distributed Neural Code in the Dentate Gyrus and in CA1. *Neuron*. **107**, 703–716.e4 (2020).

49. D. J. Cai, D. Aharoni, T. Shuman, J. Shobe, J. Biane, W. Song, B. Wei, M. Veshkini, M. La-Vu, J. Lou, S. E. Flores, I. Kim, Y. Sano, M. Zhou, K. Baumgaertel, A. Lavi, M. Kamata, M. Tuszynski, M. Mayford, P. Golshani, A. J. Silva, A shared neural ensemble links distinct contextual memories encoded close in time. *Nature*. **534**, 115–118 (2016).

50. B. D. Yetton, D. J. Cai, V. I. Spoormaker, A. J. Silva, S. C. Mednick, Human Memories Can Be Linked by Temporal Proximity. *Front. Hum. Neurosci.* **13**, 315 (2019).

51. M. A. Shafto, R. N. Henson, F. E. Matthews, J. R. Taylor, T. Emery, S. Erzinclioglu, C. Hanley, J. B. Rowe, R. Cusack, A. J. Calder, W. D. Marslen-Wilson, J. Duncan, T. Dalgleish, C. Brayne, Cam-Can, L. K. Tyler, Cognitive Diversity in a Healthy Aging Cohort: Cross-Domain Cognition in the Cam-CAN Project. *J. Aging Health*, 898264319878095 (2019).

Acknowledgments: Behavioral timelines created with Biorender.com. The authors would like to thank Dr. Susumu Tonegawa and his lab for providing the activity-dependent virus cocktail. **Funding:** This work was supported by an NIH Early Independence Award (DP5 OD023106-01), an NIH Transformative R01 Award, a Young Investigator Grant from the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, a Ludwig Family Foundation grant, the McKnight Foundation Memory and Cognitive Disorders Award, and the Center for Systems Neuroscience and Neurophotonics Center at Boston University. **Author contributions:** ABF**:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft, Visualization, Supervision HL**:** Software**,** Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft, Visualization RC**:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft, Visualization TG**:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Writing - Review & Editing AV**:** Conceptualization, Writing - Review & Editing YZ**:** Conceptualization, Writing - Review & Editing SR**:** Resources, Funding Acquisition, Writing - Original Draft, Conceptualization (see CRediT definitions); **Competing interests:** Authors declare no competing interests; and **Data and materials availability:** All data is available in the main text or the supplementary materials.

Figure 1. Social stimuli bidirectionally impact fear memory recall for males and females.

A) Schematic representation of behavioral schedule. **B)** Freezing levels during fear acquisition

for males and females (2way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparison test, n=69 males,

365 63 females). **C, E, F, H)** Freezing levels during fear memory recall (upper) and generalization

(lower) tests (2Way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparison test, males - n=12

Juvenile Intruder, 14 Cagemate control, 18 Restraint**,** 19 Tube control, females - n=21 1-Way

Mirror, 19 Mirror No Mouse, 16 Restraint, 16 Tube). **D and G)** Freezing levels during fear

memory recall (upper) and generalization (lower) tests (1Way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's

370 multiple comparison test, n=18 1-Way Mirror, 21 Opaque, 18 Full Interaction, 16 Mirror No

Mouse). Other than in B, data shown as mean +/- SEM. n.s. $p > 0.05$, *$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$,

***$p < 0.001$, ****$p < 0.0001$, detailed statistics shown in ST2.

Fig. 2. A stressed conspecific with unidirectional visual access to cagemates induces

context-specific reinstatement. A) Behavioral timeline for the 6 groups shown. **B)** Freezing

throughout extinction, dashed line indicates first 3 minutes of last session. **C-E)** The relationship

between freezing during the first 3 minutes of the last extinction session and during the first 3

minutes of recall. Solid lines show linear regressions, dotted lines at 95% confidence bands

(Pearson correlation tests). **F)** Comparison of the increase in freezing from the first 3 minutes of

the last extinction session to the first 3 minutes of recall for the three types of exposure to a

recently shocked cagemate; i.e. reinstatement score. (1 Way ANOVA, n=18 1-Way Mirror, n=38

Full Interaction; n=14 Opaque) **G)** Proportion of reinstators (animals who freeze >5% more

during recall than extinction) in the 1-Way Mirror and Full Interaction group (Fisher's Exact test,

n=18 1-Way Mirror, n=38 Full Interaction). **H)** Freezing during recall test compared to

generalization test for reinstators (Student's paired t test, n=5). In E-F, data shown as mean +/-

SEM. n.s. $p>0.05$, *$p<0.05$, **$p<0.01$, detailed statistics shown in Supplementary Text and Table

S1).

Figure 3. Social experience reactivates subsets of pre-existing fear engrams. A) Schematic representation of the doxycycline mediated viral tagging construct (left) and experimental design (right). **B)** Freezing throughout extinction training (RM 1Way ANOVA, Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons, n=9). **C)** Confocal visualization of DG and BLA histology showing cFos-tTa+Tre-EYFP labelled cells (active during FC, green) and cFos+ cells (active during the different types

of stress exposure, red). Left - without fear extinction, Right - following fear extinction. **D, F)** Proportion of cFos+ cells per DAPI in the DG and BLA (1way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons test), D - without extinction, F - with extinction. **E, G)** Amount of overlap between the two labeled populations normalized over chance (1-sample t tests compared to chance=1), E - without extinction, G - with extinction. **H)** Correlation between overlap in the DG and BLA for the restraint stress group (Pearson's R, n=6). Other than in H, data shown as mean +/- SEM. n.s. $p > 0.05$, $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.001$, $****p < 0.0001$, detailed statistics shown in ST3.

Figure 4. Optogenetic stimulation of hippocampus cells active during a social experience drives freezing only in previously fear-conditioned animals. A) Behavioral schedule. **B)**

420 Schematic representation of activity-dependent engram tagging strategy. **C)** Representative

images of DAPI+ cells (blue) and Chr2-EYFP+ cells (green) in the BLA (left) and DG (right).

D) Freezing levels throughout extinction (n=11 FC, n=7 NoFC). **E and I)** Proportion of cells

tagged during 1-way mirror or resident intruder in the BLA (E) and DG (I) in FC vs No FC

groups (student's t-test, DG - n=5 NoFC, n=9 FC, BLA - n=4 NoFC, n=7 FC). **F and J)** top -

425 freezing levels throughout optogenetic stimulation of cells active during 1-way mirror in BLA

(F) and DG (J) in FC vs non FC groups, bottom - freezing levels for the light-off and the

averaged light-on sessions (2-way ANOVA, Sidak-Holm's multiple comparison's test, DG: n=8

FC, n=5 NoFC, BLA: n=3 NoFC, n=4 FC). **G and K)** top - grooming levels throughout

optogenetic stimulation of cells active during 1-way mirror in BLA (G) and DG (K) in FC vs non

430 FC groups, bottom - grooming levels for the light-off and the averaged light-on sessions (2-way

ANOVA, Sidak-Holm's multiple comparison's test, DG: n=8 FC, n=5 NoFC, BLA: n=3 NoFC,

n=4 FC). **H and L)** Freezing levels during extinction test, reinstatement test, and generalization

test. BLA on top, DG on bottom. Reinstators are defined by >5% increase in freezing between

extinction and reinstatement (purple lines). Data shown as mean +/- SEM. n.s. $p>0.05$, *$p<0.05$,

435 **$p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$, ****$p<0.0001$, detailed statistics shown in Supplemental Text.

Supplementary Materials for

445 **Social Reactivation of Fear Engrams Enhances Recall and Reinstatement**

Abby Basya Finkelstein, Héloïse Leblanc, Rebecca Cole, Troy Gallerani, Anahita Vieira, Yosif
Zaki, Steve Ramirez

450   Correspondence to: afinkelstein@fas.harvard.edu and dvsteve@bu.edu

This PDF file includes:

455   Materials and Methods
           Supplementary Text
           Figs. S1 to S5
           Tables S1 to S3
           Captions for Movies S1 to S2
460   Captions for Data S1 to S5

Other Supplementary Materials for this manuscript include the following:

           Movies S1 to S2
465

  Materials and Methods

Surgery

For all surgeries, mice were initially anesthetized under 3.5% isoflurane inhalation and
then maintained during surgery at 1.0-2.0% isoflurane inhalation through stereotaxic nosecone
delivery. Ophthalmic ointment was applied to both eyes to provide adequate lubrication and
475   prevent corneal damage. The hair above the surgical site was removed with scissors and
subsequently cleaned with alternating applications of betadine solution and 70% ethanol. 2.0%
Lidocaine HCl was injected subcutaneously as local analgesia prior to 10-15mm midsagittal
incision of the skin. For optogenetic implant surgeries, two bone anchor screws were secured
into the cranium, one anterior and one posterior to the target injection and fiber placement sites.
480   All animals then received bilateral craniotomies with a 0.6 mm drill-bit for dorsal dentate gyrus
(dDG) and basolateral amygdala (BLA) injections. For all dDG and BLA surgeries, a 10μL air-
tight Hamilton syringe with attached 33-gage beveled needle was lowered to the coordinates for
DG of -2.2mm anteroposterior (AP), ±1.3mm mediolateral (ML), -2.0mm dorsoventral (DV),
and for BLA of -1.35mm (AP), ±3.25mm mediolateral (ML), and -5.0mm (DV). All coordinates
485   are given relative to bregma (mm). For overlap surgeries, a volume of 300 nL of AAV9-cFos-tTa
+ TRE-EYFP viral cocktail was bilaterally injected at 200 nL/min using a micro-infusion pump
for each coordinate (2x300 nL for dDG and 2x300 nL for BLA) (UMP3; World Precision
Instruments). After injection was complete, the needle was left in place 2 minutes prior to
incremental retraction of the needle from the brain. For dDG chemogenetic surgeries, a 300nL
490   viral cocktail of AAV9-cFos-tTa + AAV9-TRE-hM4Di was bilaterally injected into the dDG at
the coordinates listed above. For dDG **or** BLA optogenetic surgeries, a 300nL viral cocktail of
AAV9-cFos-tTa + AAV9-TRE-ChR2-EYFP was bilaterally injected into the dDG **or** BLA

(separate surgeries and animals for each brain region; see overlap surgeries for coordinates and

495   procedure for injection). Following viral injection, bilateral optical fibers (200μm core diameter;

Doric Lenses) were placed 0.4mm above the injection sites (dDG: -1.6mm DV; BLA: -4.6mm

DV). The implants were secured to the skull with a layer of adhesive cement (C&M Metabond)

followed by multiple layers of dental cement (Stoelting). Mice were injected with a 0.1 mg/kg

intraperitoneal dose of buprenorphine (volume dependent on weight of animal) and placed in a

recovery cage atop a heating pad until recovered from anesthesia. Viral targeting was confirmed

500   by histological study and only animals with proper viral expression were utilized for data

analysis.

Immunohistochemistry

        Mice were overdosed with 3% isoflurane and perfused transcardially with cold (4°C)

505   phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS. Brains were

extracted and kept in PFA at 4°C for 24-48 hours and then transferred to PBS solution. Brains

were sectioned into 50μm thick coronal sections with a vibratome and collected in cold PBS.

Sections were blocked for 1-2 hours at room temperature in PBS combined with 0.2% triton

(PBST) and 5% normal goat serum (NGS) on a shaker. Sections were incubated in primary

510   antibody (1:1000 rabbit anti-c-Fos [SySy]; 1:5000 chicken anti-GFP [Invitrogen]) made in

PBST-NGS at 4°C for 48 hours. Sections then underwent three washes in PBST for 10 minutes

each, followed by a 2 hour incubation period at room temperature with secondary antibody

(1:200 Alexa 555 anti-rabbit [Invitrogen]; 1:200 Alexa 488 anti-chicken [Invitrogen]) made in

PBST-NGS. Sections then underwent three more wash cycles in PBST. Sections were mounted

515   onto microscope slides (VWR International, LLC). Vectashield HardSet Mounting Medium

with DAPI (Vector Laboratories, Inc) was applied and slides were coverslipped and allowed to dry overnight. Once dry, slides were sealed with clear nail polish on each edge and stored in a slide box in the fridge. If not mounted immediately, sections were stored in PBS at 4°C.

Behavior

520   *Fear Conditioning* - Fear conditioning (FC) for all experiments took place in a $18.5 \times 18 \times 21.5$ cm chamber with aluminum side walls and plexiglass front and rear walls (Context A). Each cage animal was placed in a separate chamber (4) and received shocks in parallel during the session. The session consisted of 4 shocks over a time span of 500s (shocks at 198s, 278s, 358s, 438s). Depending on the experiment, the length and strength of the shock varied. For the

525   experiments without extinction training (recall 24hrs after social session), the four shocks were 1 second each at 1mA. For the experiments with extinction, in order to obtain homogenous and reliable fear responses at a more remote time point, more intense fear conditioning was utilized, with shocks at 1.5mA for 2 seconds. After the session, animals were placed back into their home cage and in an isolated holding area until all animals in a cohort had been fear conditioned.

Extinction Training - Animals were placed into Context A (see above) for a duration of 30 minutes on the day following fear conditioning. A second extinction training session occurred on the next day (30 minutes). All animals in a cage of four underwent extinction training simultaneously. After the session, animals were placed back into their home cage and in an

535   isolated holding area until all animals in a cohort had undergone extinction training.

Extinction Test - For the extinction test, animals were placed into Context A for a duration of 5 minutes. Depending on the experiment, the five minute extinction test was used to assess

successful extinction and occured on the day following the second session of extinction training.

540 As in fear conditioning and extinction training, all animals in a cage of four underwent testing simultaneously and were placed back into their home cage and in an isolated holding area until all animals in a cohort were tested.

Recall Test - For the recall test, animals were placed into Context A for a duration of 5 minutes.

545 As in fear conditioning and extinction training, all animals in a cage of four underwent testing simultaneously and were placed back into their home cage and in an isolated holding area until all animals in a cohort were tested.

Generalization - To assess generalization, 24 hours after the recall session animals were placed

550 into Context B (see above for description) for a duration of 5 minutes. All animals in a cage of four underwent testing simultaneously and were placed back into their home cage and in an isolated holding area until all animals in a cohort were tested.

Juvenile Intruder/Cagemate Control - Animals were removed from the home cage and placed

555 into a separate, clean cage with access to food and water. The lid of the cage and the feeder were removed from the home cage, which served as the interaction chamber. An experimental mouse was placed back into the home cage and allowed 1 minute to acclimate. An unfamiliar younger (p43-49) intruder mouse was placed into the home cage for ten minutes of interaction with the experimental resident mouse; younger mice were used to avoid confounding effects of mutual

560 aggression(*1*, *2*). A clear acrylic top was placed over the home cage during interaction. This was repeated for each experimental cage animal. A different intruder mouse was used in each

session. After each session, both mice were removed from the home cage and placed into a separate holding cage for their respective group. For cagemate control experiments, a cagemate of the resident mouse was used for interaction in lieu of the unfamiliar intruder. The social session was conducted with a procedure otherwise identical to that used for RIT.

Immediate Shock - Immediate shock was administered in a $18.5 \times 18 \times 21.5$ cm chamber with vertical black and white striped (3 cm width) sides, a plastic container holding gauze soaked in almond extract under the chamber floor, and red light as room illumination (Context B). The animal received a single 1.5mA shock if after extinction or 1mA shock if without extinction at the 2 second time point over a 60s session.

Full Interaction - The lid of the cage and the feeder were removed for social interaction and a clear acrylic top was placed over the home cage. The recently shocked cagemate was then placed into the cage and all animals were left in the testing room for one hour of social interaction. After one hour, the home cage was returned to its normal condition.

1-Way Mirror/Mirror No Mouse Control/Opaque Control - Mirror inserts were created out of laminated cardboard and one way mirror material (OuBay). Wooden dowels were placed on the bottom to support the structure. Dimensions were based to fit tightly into the cage (7" x 11" x 5") to separate the container into two sections (a smaller area for the recently shocked cagemate and larger area for the rest of the cagemates). The lid of the cage and the feeder were removed for social interaction and a clear acrylic top was placed over the home cage. In order to enhance the effect of the mirror by creating a large light difference, black covers were created to cover the

585 section of the cage with the recently shocked cagemate. Refer to **Figure S1** for a visual

representation of the set-up. After Immediate Shock, the recently shocked cagemate was

immediately placed into the section opposite of and separate from the other cage mates. Animals

were left in the testing room for one hour of social interaction except in the chemogenetic

inhibition experiment, in which they were weighed and injected 15 minutes prior to Immediate

590 Shock and then left to experience the 1-Way Mirror manipulation for 15 minutes to ensure

efficacy of CNO in brain tissue throughout the entire experience(*3*). After one hour, or 15

minutes for the chemogenetic experiment, the recently shocked cagemate was removed and

immediately euthanized by overdose with sodium pentobarbital to ensure any subsequent effects

were due to the manipulation rather than any social interaction afterward, and the home cage was

595 returned to its normal condition. For the Mirror No Mouse Control, all procedural steps were

identical to the one-way mirror experiments, except that there was no shocked cagemate placed

on the other side of the mirror. For opaque control experiments, the one way mirror insert was

altered through the addition of a black insert on the side of the shocked cagemate so that the wall

was bidirectionally blocking visual input from the other side. Social interaction was conducted

600 with a procedure otherwise identical to that used for 1-way mirror experiments.

Restraint/Tube Control

One at a time, animals were removed from the home cage and enclosed in a plastic restraint tube

containing holes to permit air flow. The tube was then placed in the center of a clean cage for a

605 duration of two minutes. At the end of the two minutes, the animal was released from the tube

into a separate clean cage. For the tube control test, all animals remained in the home cage and a

clean restraint tube was placed into the home cage for a duration of two minutes.

Dominance Tube Test- 30mm (width) x 30cm (length) Plexiglass tubes were wide enough for

610   only one mouse to pass through at a time. Protocol for the dominance test was adapted from(*4*).

In short, cages of mice were trained for two days to walk through the small acrylic tube in one,

forward direction. Following training, each mouse was paired against one another to test

dominance. Each mouse in the pair was placed on either side of the tube so that they met in

opposite directions inside the tube. Dominance was defined as one of the mice pushing the other

615   out or forcing them to retreat back. After all mice were tested against one another in one day,

they were ranked in a 1 to 4 fashion. This was repeated each day until the hierarchy was kept

stable at least 4 days in a row. Once the hierarchy determined, the most dominant or least

dominant mouse was chosen to become the recently shocked cagemate in the 1-Way Mirror

paradigm to determine if hierarchy could predict reinstatement of the fear memory.

Open Field Test- An open 24in x 24in arena with black plastic walls was used for the test, with a

red-taped area of 12.5in x 12.5 in the middle delineating "center" from "outside". The lights in

the room were adjusted to minimize unwanted shadows. A camera was placed above the open

field area in order to record the session. The mouse was taken out of its cage and immediately

625   placed in one corner of the arena. The mouse was then left to explore the space for 10 minutes.

Once 10 minutes had passed, the mouse was placed in a separate cage until all of the cage mates

had also gone through the behavioral test. They were then all placed back in their homecage.

Optogenetic Stimulation

630   The optogenetic stimulation session occurred 24 hours after the tagging experience (1-

Way Mirror). Prior to the start of the session, optogenetic patch cords were tested to ensure a

minimum 10mA laser output. Mice were given stimulation in a separate room than Context A or

B. For stimulation, the mice were attached to the optogenetic cords in the palm of ABF's hand

and placed into a striped acrylic chamber with either white or dimmed white + red light and

635   either almond or orange scent (Context C). The session lasted 8 minutes and consisted of 4

alternating 2 minute periods of laser stimulation (off/on/off/on; dDG: 450 nm, 20 Hz, 10 ms

pulse width(*5*); BLA: 450 nm, 4 Hz and 20 Hz, 10 ms pulse width(*6*)). The BLA group received

4 Hz and 20 Hz stimulation counterbalanced in different contexts (orange vs almond scent, white

vs red light) separated by about 1.5hrs.

640   Behavior Scoring

FreezeFrame - Videos of behavioral sessions were obtained using cameras secured to the

chamber either above or to the side of the subject. For extinction, extinction test, and recall

sessions, FreezeFrame/View (Coulbourn Instruments; Whitehall, PA) was used to score freezing

behavior, defined as 1.25 seconds of animal immobility.

ezTrack - Videos of behavioral sessions were obtained using cameras secured to the chamber

either above or to the side of the subject. Videos of the open field test were obtained using a

webcam secured above for an aerial view. ezTrack(*7*) was used to analyze all open field videos.

An ROI of the center was defined manually according to the lines present on the floor of the

650   open field arena. The software tracked the movement of the mouse and calculated the amount of

frames in which the mouse moved less than specified parameters (both pixel change and distance

traveled). The software then tracked and calculated the amount of frames the mouse spent in the

center, which was converted to the amount of time spent in the center according to video

parameters.

Manual scoring - For optogenetic sessions, due to cord movement and lighting conditions

interfering with automated scoring, all freezing and grooming quantification was done manually.

This was then converted to a percentage of time that the mouse spent freezing within the bins of

stimulation in the session. Each video was scored for grooming by HL, and for freezing by 2

660   separate observers (ABF and HL or ABF and RC) whose scores were averaged to mitigate

variation in bout length perception. Grooming was defined as any syntactic-chain cephalocaudal

grooming, scratching, licking, or other observable forms of non-chain allo-grooming performed

by the animal(*8*). Freezing was defined as any observable complete cessation of movement, other

than breathing, by the animal.

665   <u>Imaging and Cell Counting</u>

All coronal brain slices were imaged through a Zeiss LSM 800 epifluorescence

microscope with a 20x/0.8NA objective using the Zen2.3 software. Images of the basolateral

amygdala were captured in a 2x2 tile (640x640 microns) Z-stack. Images of the dentate gyrus

were captured in a 4x2 tile (1280x640 microns) Z-stack. DAPI and GFP were imaged as separate

670   channels for target verification and ensemble size quantification. For overlap counts, DAPI,

cFos, and GFP were imaged (DAPI and cFos simultaneously and GFP as a separate channel). 3-4

different slices were imaged for each animal for averaging.

FIJI Software - Images were processed for greater clarity before quantification. The Subtract

675   Background tool was used to enhance contrast of cells to background, and the Despeckle was

used to minimize noise that may interfere with quantification. ROIs were selected using Freehand Selection so that only cells within the brain region would be analyzed. The DAPI channel was segmented using a custom pipeline involving 3D Object Counter. The cFos and GFP channels were initially segmented using a custom pipeline utilizing the 3D Iterative

680   Thresholding tool of 3D ImageSuite (*9*). Once cells segmented, the z-stacks were Z-Projected into a single slice image and saved.

Cell Profiler - Segmented images of DAPI, cFos, and GFP were loaded into CellProfiler and run through a pipeline that identified cells with more stringent parameters of size and shape. For

685   overlap quantification, the final step in the pipeline counted all identified objects between the cFos and GFP images that had an overlap of greater than 80%.

Cell Quantification and Analysis - Once cells were counted, the relative amounts of cFos$^+$ only, GFP$^+$ only, and cFos$^+$GFP$^+$ (overlap) cells in each slice was normalized over the total amount of

690   DAPI cells present (cFos$^+$/DAPI, GFP$^+$/DAPI, Overlap/DAPI). Chance of an overlap was defined as (cFos$^+$/DAPI)x (GFP$^+$/DAPI). Overlap over Chance was then calculated by dividing Overlap/DAPI by the Chance Overlap calculated in the previous step.

Supplementary Text

695   Statistical Analysis Details

Sex differences in fear acquisition

2 Way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparison tests of fear acquisition for males vs females, n=69 males, n=63 females; Time x Sex $F_{(4, 520)}=2.910$, p=0.0212; Time $F_{(2.717, 353.3)}=323.8$, p<0.0001; Sex $F_{(1, 130)}=4.895$, p=0.0287; Subject $F_{(130, 520)}=3.594$, p<0.0001; Comparing males to females - Baseline - t=3.336, p=0.0063; Shock1 - t=4.930, p<0.0001; Shock2 - t=2.626, p=0.0475; Shock3 - t=1.464, p=0.5452; Shock4 -t=0.07762, p>0.9999.

Impact of salient experiences on fear recall

Males -2 Way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparison tests. n=12 Juvenile Intruder; n=14 Cagemate control; n=18 Restraint; n=19 Tube control, Type of Experience x Control $F_{(1, 59)}=10.87$, p=0.0017; Type of Experience $F_{(1, 59)}=1.525$, p=0.2217; Control $F_{(1, 59)}=8.949$, p=0.0040. Comparing experimentals to controls: Juvenile Intruder t=4.098, p=0.0003; Restraint t=0.2381, p=0.8126.

1 Way ANOVA with Sidak-Holm's multiple comparison tests. n=18 Full Interaction; n=18 1-Way Mirror; n=21 Opaque; n=16 Mirror No Mouse; F=3.949, p=0.0117. Comparing 1-Way Mirror vs Opaque: t=2.074, p=0.0418; 1-Way Mirror vs Full Interaction: t=2.704, p=0.0172; 1-Way Mirror vs Mirror No Mouse: t=3.173, p=0.0068.

Females - 2 Way Anova with Fisher's LSD tests. n=21 1-Way Mirror; n=19 Mirror No Mouse; n=16 Restraint; n=16 Tube control; Type of experience x Control $F_{(1, 68)}=3.332$, p=0.0723; Type of experience $F_{(1, 68)}=1.942$, p=0.1680; Control $F_{(1, 68)}=0.7553$, p=0.3879. Comparing experimentals to controls: 1-Way Mirror t=2.019, p=0.0474; Restraint t=0.6418, p=0.5232.

720 Impact of salient experiences on fear generalization

Males - 2 Way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparison tests. n=11 juvenile intruder; n=12 cagemate control; n=15 restraint; n=16 tube control; Type of Experience $F_{(1, 51)}=0.2352$, p=0.6297; Control $F_{(1, 51)}=0.6279$, p=0.4318. Comparing experimentals to controls; juvenile intruder t=1.002, p=0.5391; restraint t=0.1767, p=0.9805.

1 Way ANOVA with Sidak-Holm's multiple comparison tests. n=18 Full Interaction; n=18 1-Way Mirror; n=21 Opaque; n=16 Mirror No Mouse; F=0.6545, p=0.5828. 1-Way Mirror vs Opaque: t=1.249, p=0.5177; 1-Way Mirror vs Full Interaction: t=0.2355, p=0.9656; 1-Way Mirror vs Mirror No Mouse: t=0.1631, p=0.9656..

Females - 2 Way Anova with Fisher's LSD tests since no multiple comparisons were made, n=21 1-way mirror; n=16 1-way mirror control; n=16 restraint; n=16 tube control; Type of experience $F_{(1, 66)}=0.1702$, p=0.6813; Control $F_{(1, 66)}=2.140$, p=0.1483. Comparing experimentals to controls: 1-way mirror t=0.8561, p=0.3951; restraint t=1.210, p=0.2305.

Reinstatement of fear following exposure to stressed cagemate

Reinstatement after three types of exposure - 1 Way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons test. n=18 1-way mirror; n=38 full interaction; n=14 opaque; F=4.263, p=0.0181. Comparing 1-way mirror to full interaction, t=2.736, p=0.0158; comparing 1-way mirror to

740 opaque, t=2.345, p=0.0220.

Comparing counts of reinstators - Fisher's exact test. n=18 1-way mirror, n=38 full interaction; 1-way mirror 16.67% reinstators, full interaction 0% reinstators; p=0.0294.

Reinstators' generalization of fear - paired t test, n=5, t=3.616, p=0.0224.

Reactivation of DG and BLA fear ensembles during various experiences

Extinction of fear - Repeated Measures 1 Way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons test, n=9. Comparing the first five minutes to the last, t=5.688, p=0.0005.

Number of cFos+ cells during different experiences -

No Extinction - 1 Way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons test:

DG: n=10 Juvenile Intruder, 9 1-Way Mirror, 4 Shocked Cagemate, 5 Restraint; F=2.825, p=0.0820. Comparing Juvenile Intruder vs 1-Way Mirror, t=2.249, p=0.0339; **BLA**: n=10 Juvenile Intruder, 8 1-Way Mirror, 5 Restraint, 3 Immediate Shock, F=3.961, p=0.0356. Comparing Juvenile Intruder vs 1-Way Mirror, t=2.782, p=0.0118.

Extinction - **DG:** Welch's t test (due to different variances, F=8.788, p=0.0462), n=6 1-Way Mirror, 3 Restraint, t=1.261, p=0.3232. **BLA**: two-tailed, unpaired t test, n=4 Restraint, 5 1-Way Mirror, t=0.2716, p=0.7938.

Reactivation of fear ensemble during different experiences -

One sample t test comparing to chance overlap of 1:

765 No Extinction - **DG**: n=10 Juvenile Intruder, t=2.436, p=0.0376; n=9 1-Way Mirror, t=2.656,

p=0.0290; n=5 Restraint, t=0.06673, p=0.9500; n=4 Immediate Shock, t=0.08473, p=0.9378.

BLA: n=10 Juvenile Intruder, t=7.411, p<0.0001; n=8 1-Way Mirror, t=2.101, p=0.0737; n=5

Restraint, t=7.462, p=0.0017; n=3 Immediate Shock, t=3.492, p=0.0731.

770 Extinction: **DG**: n=6 1-Way Mirror, t=3.340, p=0.0206; n=3 Restraint, t=3.575, p=0.0701. **BLA:**

n=4 1-Way Mirror, t=3.257, p=0.0312; n=4 Restraint, t=9.031, p=0.0029.

Optogenetic stimulation of cells active during social experience

Extinction training - Mixed-effects model, n=11 FC, n=7 No FC, time x FC F(12, 186)=8.201,

775 p<0.0001, time F(12, 186)=7.487, p<0.0001 FC F(1, 16)=40.22, p<0.0001. Holm Sidak's

multiple comparisons, first five minutes of extinction vs extinction test, t=5.054, p<0.0001.

Ensemble size -

DG: two tailed, unpaired t test, n=9 Fear Conditioned, 5 Non Fear Conditioned, t=1.264,

780 p=0.2300.

BLA: two tailed, unpaired t test, n=7 Fear Conditioned, 8 Non Fear Conditioned, t=1.873,

p=0.0838.

Effect of optogenetic stimulation - 2 Way Repeated Measures ANOVA for all

785 **DG (**n=8 FC, n=5 No FC)

Freezing:

For individual sessions -light x FC $F_{(3, 33)}=2.093$, p=0.1201; light $F_{(3,33)}=0.7303$; FC $F_{(1,11)}=8.695$, p=0.0132; Subject $F_{(11, 33)}=1.254$, p=0.2931; Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons test, FC first light-on vs light-off t=3.021, p=0.0145.

For averaged light-on sessions - light x FC $F_{(1, 11)}=7.532$, p=0.0191; FC $F_{(1,11)}=4.318$, p=0.0619; Light $F_{(1,11)}=3.257$, p=0.0986; Subject $F_{(11,11)}=2.168$, p=0.1076. Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons, Light On vs Light Off: No FC- t=0.5991, p=0.5612, FC - t=3.668, p=0.0074.

Grooming:

For individual sessions - light x FC $F_{(3, 33)}=4.111$, p=0.0139; light $F_{(3,33)}=1.092$, p=0.3661; FC $F_{(1,11)}=1.829$, p=0.2034; Subject $F_{(11, 33)}=1.986$, p=0.0632; Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons test, baseline vs light-off t=3.063, p=0.01720; first light-on vs light-off t=3.520,

800   p=0.0077; second light-on vs light-off t=3.268, p=0.0126.

For averaged light-on sessions - light x FC $F_{(1, 11)}=6.915$, p=0.0234; FC $F_{(1,11)}=0.06426$, p=0.8046; Light $F_{(1,11)}=1.028$, p=0.3324; Subject $F_{(11,11)}=1.026$, p=0.4835. Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons, Light On vs Light Off: No FC- t=1.030, p=0.3252, FC - t=2.938,

805   p=0.0268.

BLA (n=4 FC, n=3 No FC)
Freezing:

For individual sessions - light x FC $F_{(6, 24)}=1.651$, p=0.1766; light $F_{(3, 24)}=0.2742$, p=0.8434; FC $F_{(2, 8)}=0.9582$, p=0.4236; Subject $F_{(8, 24)}=2.471$, p=0.0413.

For averaged light-on sessions - light x FC $F_{(2, 8)}=2.081$, p=1.873; FC $F_{(2, 8)}=1.213$, p=0.3466; Light $F_{(1, 8)}=0.02020$, p=0.6651; Subject $F_{(8, 8)}=5.667$, p=0.0121.

Grooming:

For individual sessions - light x FC $F_{(6, 24)}=1.146$, p=0.3671; Light $F_{(3, 24)}=1.401$, p=0.2669; FC $F_{(2, 8)}=2.084$, p=0.1869; Subject $F_{(8, 24)}=8.737$, p<0.0001.

For averaged light-on sessions - light x FC $F_{(2, 8)}=0.7235$, p=0.5142; FC $F_{(2, 8)}=1.238$, p=0.3402; Light $F_{(1, 8)}=2.809$, p=0.1322; Subject $F_{(8, 8)}=4.779$, p=0.0121.

Fig. S1. 1-Way Mirror Prototype. **A)** Unidirectional visual access allows the recently shocked mouse in the darkened compartment to see the cagemates on the other side of the insert, in the bright compartment. **B)** The cagemates do not see the shocked cagemate in the dark compartment but rather see their own reflections. Auditory-olfactory stimuli are exchanged over the top and sides of the 7" x 11" x 5" insert.

A

B

 C

850 **Fig. S2. Exposure to females does not impact males' fear memory recall compared to**

cagemate controls. A) Schematic behavioral paradigm. **B)** Freezing during recall (two tailed,

unpaired t test, n=6 female exposure, 4 cagemate controls, t=0.1799, p=0.8617). **C)**

Generalization represented by difference scores between freezing in FC context and a different

context (two tailed, unpaired t test, n=6 female exposure, 4 cagemate controls, t=0.9189,

855 p=0.3850).

A

B

Fig. S3. Open Field Test performance does not predict socially-induced reinstatement of fear. Time in the center of the Open Field plotted on the x-axis, freezing during the first 3 minutes of last extinction session subtracted from freezing during the first 3 minutes of recall plotted on the y-axis. Purple circles indicate reinstators, defined as animals with y-axis scores above 5%. Simple linear regression, n=15, R squared=0.1342, p=0.18.

Fig. S4. CNO and injection-related stress blocks social enhancement of memory, thereby occluding the impact of chemogenetic inhibition. A) Schematic of viral construct (upper) and representative histology (lower). **B)** Behavioral timeline. **C)** Freezing during recall, n=8 CNO EYFP, 8 hM4Di, 6 No Injection, 9 Saline, Brown-Forsythe and Welch ANOVA test, F=0.9445, p=0.4396; unpaired t with Welch's correction, CNO EYFP vs No Injection, t=2.451, p=0.0306; CNO EYFP vs Saline, t=1.148, p=0.2690. **C)** Generalization score, Shapiro-Wilk test of normality, No Injection W=0.9854, p=0.9749; Saline W=0.8636, p=0.1048; CNO EYFP W=0.9498, p=0.7089; CNO hM4Di W=0.6306, p=0.0004. **E)** Normal QQ Plot demonstrating skew of CNO hM4Di group (green circles) in contrast to all other groups, in reference to solid black identity line.

A

B **C**

Fig. S5. Hierarchical role of the stressed animal does not impact cagemates' reinstatement.
A) Behavioral timeline. **B)** Reinstatement scores, calculated as (%freezing first three minutes of recall) - (%freezing first three minutes of second extinction session). n=6 subordinate stressed cagemate, n=6 dominant stressed cagemate, unpaired two-tailed t test, t= 1.135, p= 0.2828, **C)** Linear regressions of freezing during first three minutes of recall vs first three minutes of second extinction session. Subordinate stressed cagemate: R squared= 0.5394, dominant stressed cagemate, R squared= 0.2530.

	1-Way Mirror	Juvenile Intruder	Opaque	Full Interaction	Restraint	Cagemates
n	18	11	13	38	8	12
R squared	0.00433	0.2401	0.7932	0.4111	0.5799	0.4568
F	0.06955	2.844	42.19	25.13	8.282	8.409
P	0.7954	0.1260	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.0281	0.0158

Table S1.

Simple linear regressions of percentage freezing during the first 3 minutes of the last extinction session against freezing during the first 3 minutes of recall.

One sample t test DG			
	Juvenile Intruder	1-Way Mirror	Restraint	Immediate Shock
n	10	9	5	4
t	2.436	2.656	0.06673	0.08473
p	0.0376	0.0290	0.9500	0.9378
One sample t test BLA			
n	10	8	5	3
t	7.411	2.101	7.462	3.492
p	<0.0001	0.0737	0.0017	0.0731

Table S2.

One sample t test results comparing normalized overlaps to chance (=1) for cells active during

fear conditioning and during experiences 24hrs later.

One sample t test DG		
	1-Way Mirror	**Restraint**
n	6	3
t	3.340	3.575
p	0.0206	0.0701
One sample t test BLA		
n	5	4
t	3.257	9.031
p	0.0312	0.0029

Table S3.

One sample t test results comparing normalized overlaps to chance (=1) for cells active during

905   fear conditioning and during experiences post-extinction 3 days later.

Movie S1.

Representative video of 1-Way Mirror paradigm for fear conditioned cagemates.

Movie S2.

Representative video of juvenile intruder paradigm for Fear Conditioned cagemates. The experimental resident mouse has two marks at the base of his tail, the intruder has a long solid line from the base to the middle of his tail.

Supplementary References

52. A. C. Felix-Ortiz, K. M. Tye, Amygdala inputs to the ventral hippocampus bidirectionally modulate social behavior. *J. Neurosci.* **34**, 586–595 (2014).

53. E. B. Defensor, M. J. Corley, R. J. Blanchard, D. C. Blanchard, Facial expressions of mice in aggressive and fearful contexts. *Physiol. Behav.* **107**, 680–685 (2012).

54. M. Jendryka, M. Palchaudhuri, D. Ursu, B. van der Veen, B. Liss, D. Kätzel, W. Nissen, A. Pekcec, Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic actions of clozapine-N-oxide, clozapine, and compound 21 in DREADD-based chemogenetics in mice. *Sci. Rep.* **9**, 4522 (2019).

55. Z. Fan, H. Zhu, T. Zhou, S. Wang, Y. Wu, H. Hu, Using the tube test to measure social hierarchy in mice. *Nat. Protoc.* **14**, 819–831 (2019).

56. X. Liu, S. Ramirez, P. T. Pang, C. B. Puryear, A. Govindarajan, K. Deisseroth, S. Tonegawa, Optogenetic stimulation of a hippocampal engram activates fear memory recall.

930 *Nature*. **484**, 381–385 (2012).

57. D. S. Roy, Y. G. Park, S. K. Ogawa, J. H. Cho, H. Choi, Brain-wide mapping of contextual fear memory engram ensembles supports the dispersed engram complex hypothesis. *bioRxiv* (2019) (available at https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/668483v1.abstract).

58. Z. T. Pennington, Z. Dong, Y. Feng, L. M. Vetere, L. Page-Harley, T. Shuman, D. J. Cai,
935 ezTrack: An open-source video analysis pipeline for the investigation of animal behavior. *Sci. Rep.* **9**, 19979 (2019).

59. A. V. Kalueff, A. M. Stewart, C. Song, K. C. Berridge, A. M. Graybiel, J. C. Fentress, Neurobiology of rodent self-grooming and its value for translational neuroscience. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* **17**, 45–59 (2016).

940 60. J. Ollion, J. Cochennec, F. Loll, C. Escudé, T. Boudier, TANGO: a generic tool for high-throughput 3D image analysis for studying nuclear organization. *Bioinformatics*. **29**, 1840–1841 (2013).