Abstract: In recent years there has been new recognition of the importance of spatial intelligence in society and the need to foster this type of intelligence in our educational system. But what is spatial intelligence and what are the best ways to study it? I will review ways in which psychologists have traditionally studied spatial intelligence in the laboratory. I will also consider ways in which we need to broaden the study of spatial intelligence when we examine spatial cognition and thinking in everyday life and in the sciences and professions. These include distinguishing between spatial thinking at the scale of objects and environments, understanding the interplay between mental simulation and analytic thinking, and examining how spatial cognition can depend on both internal and external representations.

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