



Submission Form

Title: The underlying processes of face recognition

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Abstract: There is still an ongoing debate, what the nature of the processes underlying in face recognition are. Is face recognition based of serial or in parallel processing? Faces differ from each other in respect of component or local features, configuration, textures, etc. In our studies a stimulus-limitation technique using visual masking as well as different presentation times was applied to faces manipulated either locally or configurally. We found an obvious microgenesis of face recognition (cf. Siegler & Crowley, Am. Psych. 46, 1991). The eyes area was recognized prior to every other inner feature, with the mouth coming next and the nose as the region identified last. Moreover, a clear-cut distinction between „local“ and „configural“ processing could be made, although the pre-experimental saliency between both manipulation classes did not differ from each other. Locally changed faces were recognized using a serial processing sequence with a self-terminating character [cf. Sergent, Brit. J. Psych. 75, 1984], whereas configural faces were processed in parallel or 'holistically' (Tanaka & Farah, QJEP 46A, 1993). Implications for face recognition theories in general and models of the processing of visual patterns in general are discussed and evaluated.

Preference: Poster

Facilities needed: Other... (especific) If other:

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