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Presentation and validation of the Radboud Faces Database

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Abstract

Many research fields concerned with the processing of information contained in human faces would benefit from face stimulus sets in which specific facial characteristics are systematically varied while other important picture characteristics are kept constant. Specifically, a face database in which displayed expressions, gaze direction, and head orientation are parametrically varied in a complete factorial design would be highly useful in many research domains. Furthermore, these stimuli should be standardised in several important, technical aspects. The present article presents the freely available Radboud Faces Database offering such a stimulus set, containing both Caucasian adult and children images. This face database is described both procedurally and in terms of content, and a validation study concerning its most important characteristics is presented. In the validation study, all frontal images were rated with respect to the

shown facial expression, intensity of expression, clarity of expression, genuineness of expression, attractiveness, and valence. The results show very high recognition of the intended facial expressions.

Acknowledgements

Notes

[1]Here we report the intraclass correlations ICC(1, 1) and ICC(1, k) as reliability indices (Shrout & Fleiss, 1979). Due to the fact that our participants did not rate the whole image set but only parts, we could not calculate the usually higher indices ICC(2, 1) and ICC(2, k) that partial between-rater variance out. Therefore, our reliability indices are probably lower than the real reliability.

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