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Visuo-tactile stimulation is associated with faster self-recognition of ambiguous self-other morphs

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Abstract

The enfacement illusion reflects changes in self-face representation following synchronous multisensory stimulation. This study examined whether such stimulation is associated with changes in self-other face discrimination at an ambiguous morph level (S50), focusing on both the rate of 'self' responses and reaction times across different visual field positions. Participants completed a self-recognition task before and after synchronous visuo-tactile stimulation, with faces presented centrally or in the left and right visual fields. We found that the reaction times for 'self' responses to S50 morphs were faster following stimulation, indicating a general facilitation in responding to ambiguous self-related stimuli. This effect was most pronounced for centrally presented faces, while lateralized differences were weak and not statistically significant. In contrast, the proportion of 'self' responses did not change across sessions. However, in the absence of a control condition, the observed reaction time facilitation cannot be uniquely attributed to enfacement-related processes and may reflect practice or repetition effects. These findings suggest that reaction times may be sensitive to multisensory stimulation, but clearer conclusions will require better-controlled designs.