UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

The Effects of Age on Facial Recognition of Autistic Individuals

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3dg4t83c

Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 45(45)

Authors

Chen, Mei-Ling
FENG, HUA
Chen, TSE MING
et al.

Publication Date

2023

Peer reviewed

The Effects of Age on Facial Recognition of Autistic Individuals

Mei-Ling Chen
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

HUA FENG
Graduate Institute of Rehabilitation Counseling, Changhua, Taiwan

TSE MING Chen
Graduate Institute of Rehabilitation Counseling, Changhua, Taiwan

Po-Sheng Huang
National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan

Shu-Ling Peng
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Jon-Fan Hu
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan City, Taiwan

Abstract

This study aims to investigate whether autistic individuals (e.g., ASD) have consistent or inconsistent age-related changes for recognizing different facial emotions compared to typical ones. Particularly, we also examined whether facial recognition abilities vary with developmental trends in both groups. Pictures of six primary facial types (happy, sad, angry, surprised, and confused faces) of real person were adopted in the study for 91 ASD patients and 177 normal participants recruited from kindergartens, elementary schools, and colleges. The results showed that, although, in general, normal participants had greater recognition performance as expected, both groups of participants had three distinct categories of developmental patterns: (1) angry and fear, (2) happy and surprised, and the last, (3) sad and confused. These findings revealed significant theoretical and practical values for further research and treatment.