

HUMAN INFANTS' FACES PROCESSING AS REVEALED BY THEIR EYE GAZE PATTERNS

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It is well known that human infants are sensitive to faces from birth. With age, they become increasingly capable of categorizing and recognizing faces, with experience playing an important role (e.g., they recognize better own race faces than other race faces). It is, however, unclear as to exactly how infants use the information on human faces when performing face processing. With the use of the eye tracking methodology, we conducted a series of experiments with human infants between 3 and 10 months of age when they are shown faces of different categories (e.g., race). We found that systematic gaze processing in infants' scanning of the faces and faces of different categories (e.g., race) resulted in differential patterns of scanning. These findings suggest the crucial role of experience in shaping infants' gaze patterns when processing faces.

Keywords: gaze, face processing, eye tracking, infant