



Dear Dr. Chien :

I am pleased to inform you that your submission to the 2014 meeting of Theory and Methodology in Configural Perception (TMCP) has been accepted as an oral presentation. TMCP2014 will be held in Tainan, Taiwan. The dates are September 26-28, 2014. In addition, I am very happy to inform you that we are preparing a workshop regarding "using R to do RT analysis" during TMCP2014.

The specific details of your submission appear below. Further information about the program will be announced on the webpage shortly. Please remember to make a registration at <http://www.t MCP.org/meeting/speaker-instructions> before September 1st.

Title: Specialization and generalization in developing the other-race effect

Abstract Number: 013

Authors: Hui-Lin Chien , Tsung-Ren Huang , Jing-Fong Wang

Affiliation: Institute of Neural & Cognitive Sciences, China Medical University ; Department of Psychology, National Taiwan University ; Institute of Neural & Cognitive Sciences, China Medical University

Abstract: It has been a longstanding debate whether perceptual development is primarily a pruning or branching process. While the developmental literature on perceptual narrowing emphasizes declined sensitivities to rarely exposed stimuli, research of perceptual learning highlights improved sensitivities to frequently exposed stimuli. By examining infants' developmental changes in processing own- and other-race faces, studies of the other-race effect provide a unique window into understanding the dominant form of experience-shaped neuroplasticity and have favored the pruning view (i.e. perceptual narrowing). However, here we reveal the branching aspect of perceptual development (i.e. perceptual learning). Using the familiarization paradigm, we investigated 4-, 6- and 9-month-old Taiwanese infants perceptual discriminability with oval-masked faces of three ethnic groups (Taiwanese, Caucasian, Philippine) and each with three levels of discrimination difficulty. Our results showed that the infants exhibited an own-race advantage at 4 months and improved rather than declined discriminability for other-race faces between 4 and 9 months. This race-generalized improvement of face recognition implies a more specialized neural representation of the facial features shared by own- and other-race faces. Our study and other studies that used unmasked faces complementarily suggest that, during perceptual development, the neural representations of familiar and unfamiliar perceptual features may compete and undergo branching and pruning processes, respectively.

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成功大學

心理學系暨認知科學研究所

Department of Psychology and Institute of Cognitive Science

Please visit the webpage <http://www.tmcg.org/meeting/speaker-instructions> for suggestions on preparing your presentation.

I look forward to seeing you in Tainan.

Sincerely,

Cheng-Ta Yang

Cheng-Ta Yang

Secretary / Tabrio Huang