**When do faces capture attention? Evidence from eye movements**

**Method**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiment</th>
<th>Target cue (1000 ms)</th>
<th>Display (1000 ms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exp. 1 (upright)</td>
<td>Face or Butterfly</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exp. 2 (inverted)</td>
<td>Butterfly</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exp. 3 (face irrelevant)</td>
<td>Flower or Butterfly</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Target search time**
- **Percentage of capture by faces**

**About Faces:**
- Detected very fast by the brain (~100 ms).
- Detected and attended more than other objects.
- Their semantic processing is less sensitive to attentional load.

**Langton et al. (2008) Cognition**
- In a visual search task, upright (but not inverted) distractor faces disrupt the search for a butterfly (manual responses).
- Butterfly distractors do not interfere with a face search.
- Faces capture attention.

**Experiment 1 - Upright displays (N=8).**
- Faces found faster than butterflies.
- The presence of the opposite distractor is disruptive but even more when it is a face.
- Same pattern with number of saccades.

**Experiment 2 - Inverted displays (N=8).**
- Inverted faces also found faster.
- The presence of a distractor inverted face is disruptive for the inverted butterfly search.

**Conclusion**

Upright and inverted faces are easy to detect. Faces have highly salient features but they only capture the eyes when their detection is relevant during the task.

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