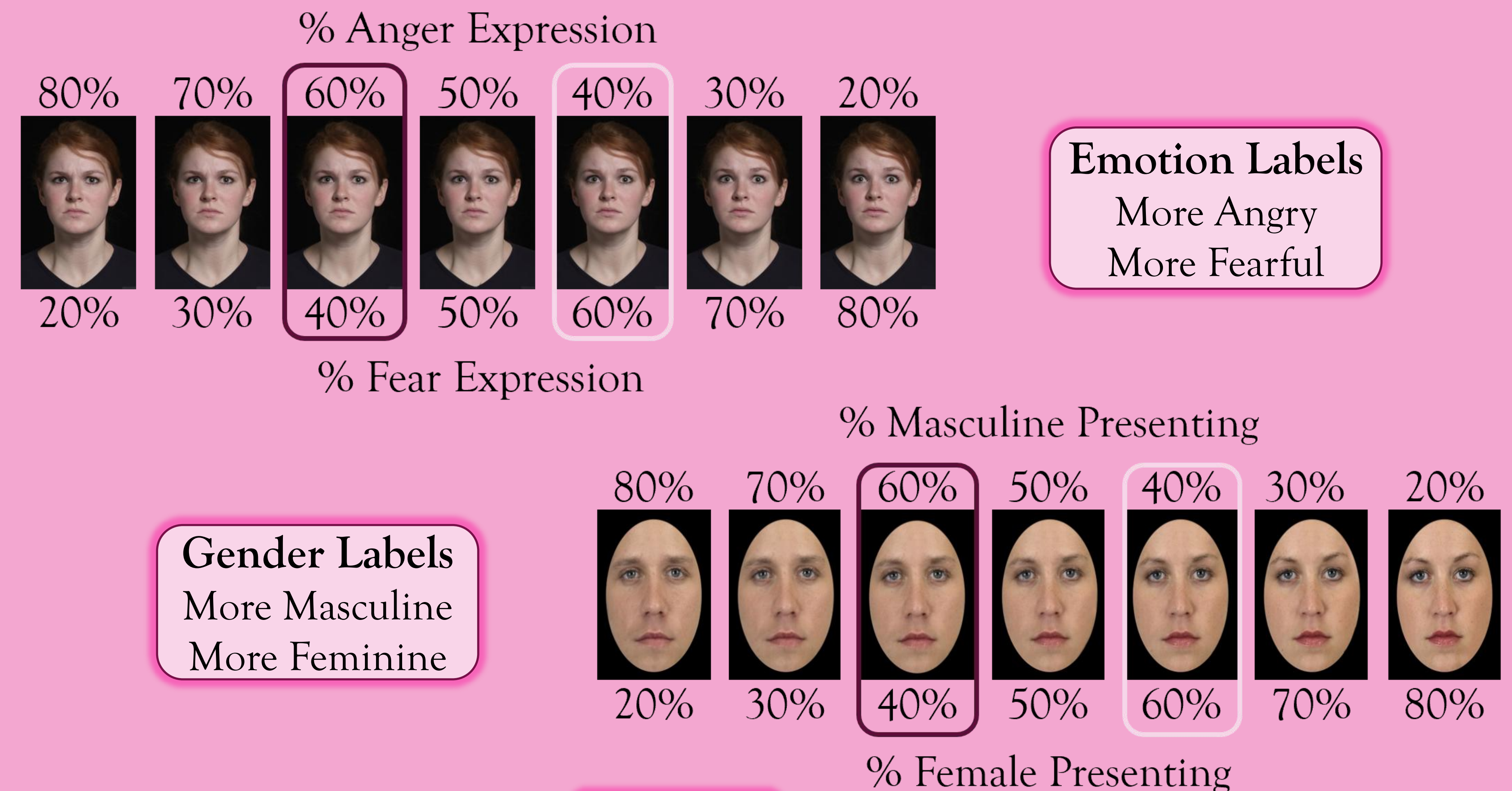


Introduction

- Availability of semantic labels has been shown to influence one's ability to remember ambiguous facial stimuli^{1,2,3,4}
- Presence of emotion category labels compared to arbitrary labels like Face A and Face B enhance memory biases for ambiguous facial expressions⁴
- Unclear if it is emotion category labels specifically producing the effect or if any socially relevant label would produce the same effect

Predictions

- Ambiguous emotion expressions will be misremembered as looking more like stereotypical emotion expressions if labeled with emotion words vs. irrelevant gender words
- Ambiguous gendered faces will be misremembered as looking more stereotypically masculine/feminine if labeled with gender words vs. with irrelevant emotion words



Results: Memory Biases



Discussion

- Memory biases were more pronounced for both ambiguous emotion and gender stimuli when the labels were directly relevant to the stimuli
- Memory biases were also present in emotion stimuli with gender labels
- Results suggest that while direct relevance of the label to stimulus dimension enhances memory biases, any facial category label may influence perceptual memory abilities

Participants

323 UNH undergraduate students (72.1% female/woman, 89.2% white)

Stimuli

Emotion morphs: array made from a posed stereotypical anger and fear expression in 10% increments for 2 models (1 male, 1 female)⁵

Gender morphs: array made from a male and female presenting model posing a neutral expression in 10% increments⁶

Conditions

Randomly assigned in a 2x2 design varying on presented stimuli (emotion vs gender morphs) and presented labels (emotion vs gender labels)

Face Perception Task

Learning Phase: Target expressions (60/40% morphed blends) shown one at a time, participants identify each expression 5 times with immediate feedback

Memory Phase: All faces in the morphed array shown one at a time. Participants identify each face as one of the target expressions or neither of them without feedback

Outcome Measure

Overall Peak Shift: Representing the distance (in morph percentage) between the faces most frequently identified as the target expression during memory phase, such that higher numbers indicate the two target expressions were recognized as more distinct, and 0 indicating no biases

References

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