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Development and Validation of the Facial Expression Intensity Stimulus Set (FEISS)

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Abstract

Previous research about the intensity of emotional facial expressions has relied on stimulus sets of morphed facial expressions that have been generated artificially. Ecologically valid open-access facial stimulus sets with varying intensities of multiple different expressions are rare. However, there is a growing need for a validated facial stimulus set that would include multiple levels of intensities. This study aimed to develop and test the psychometric properties of a stimulus set with real facial expressions (8 men and 8 women) with 11 intensity levels for five facial expression categories: angry, happy, neutral, surprised and sad. 52 individuals rated the valence, arousal and intensity of the 656 stimuli. Descriptive statistics, internal consistency of the rating for each stimulus, emotion category, and intensity level were described. The stimuli and summary data are available upon request (https://osf.io/f8ews/).