

## ECVP 2009 – SELF-FACE RECOGNITION

### Self-face recognition: now it looks like me, now it doesn't

Little is known about self-face recognition and most studies morphed two faces to investigate self-awareness. Here, self-face recognition was investigated using a 2AFC task in which the size of central (eyes, nose and mouth) and peripheral (chin and face width) features was digitally manipulated. Participants (N=31) were asked to choose which of two images (original vs. chimeric) was the true photograph of their face. When the size of eyes, mouth and nose was simultaneously increased or decreased by half, self-recognition was faster and more accurate (>93%) than when each feature was changed individually. Participants recognised their eye size accurately, but judged their mouths and noses as being smaller than they actually were. Surprisingly, performance was at chance level when changes were made to chins and face widths.

Afterwards, participants were asked to choose which of the two images they liked most. Results were similar to the first part of the experiment; participants not only judged their mouths and noses as being slightly smaller but also preferred them to be smaller. The results revealed strong variations in performance to local changes in self-face features, both in terms of accuracy and speed. Recognition thresholds and gender differences will be discussed.

198 words

