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WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT FACES ?

Face Perception

Within the temporal lobe, a part of your brain that sits right behind your ear, there live several groups of brain cells, also called neurons, that are responsible to help you detect and recognize familiar faces. Let's call them face neurons.

Face Blindness

How come, there is something like a selective blindness for faces? Well, when you are face blind, then these face neurons simply do not do their job very well. You could think of them as the lazy ones while other brain cells that are dedicated for the perception of other visual stimuli, such as objects or landscapes like their job and do it well.

Want to learn more?

Check www.faceweb.me for more details, additional reading material, links and resources that will help you learn more about face perception, face blindness and the research that is currently going on.

Talking about Face Blindness

On December 13th, 2016, more than 150 members of the public gathered in person and virtually to join the first town hall meeting on "Living with Face Blindness" hosted by The Rockefeller University. The meeting's primary intent was to bring patients, friends, families, doctors, communities, and all other stakeholders together for an evening filled with informative discussion and exchange about face blindness (also known as prosopagnosia). The gathering was initiated by Dr. Christina Pressl, who studies the neuronal underpinnings of face

A Neural Machinery for Face Perception

The core system for face perception consists of at least four groups of face neurons. Each one of these groups carries out specific functions and information is constantly exchanged among neurons and between groups.

- The Occipital Face Area likes to detect faces more than other visual stimuli, such as objects
- A Fusiform Face Area detects different identities and likes to see them from different points of view, for example profile views.
- An area within the Superior Temporal Sulcus is responsible to help you understand the moving aspects of a face, like moving lips and eyes
- An Anterior Face Area is important for familiar face recognition

In face blind individuals, it is believed that neurons in one group respond to the face stimulus but do not communicate with other groups. This "miscommunication" results in difficulties with face identification.

perception. The program was designed to include both scientific and lay presentations, and to incorporate questions and feedback from patients and other participants. Through a live webcast, the event was accessible to a large virtual audience, including interested individuals from the U.S., Canada, Germany, Austria, and other countries. The webcast was later archived and a link to this archive can be found below. If you would like to find out more, please visit www.faceweb.me. The recorded, three-hour long webcast video and more information can be found via the websites' blog page. Furthermore, more information about Dr. Pressl's currently ongoing clinical research studies can be found on this website.

Contact Us

Do you want to learn more about face perception? Or would you like to participate in research and take a face memory test?

Simply go to www.faceweb.me to find out more and contact us.