

2022

# Age differences in facial first impressions of traits associated with trustworthiness

Altun, G.

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University of Plymouth

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## **Appendix A:**

### **INFORMATION SHEET**

#### **Title of Study: Facial First impressions across Age**

#### **Name and Contact Details of the Research Supervisor:**

Dr Mila Mileva  
School of Psychology  
University of Plymouth  
E-mail: [mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk)

#### **Name and Contact Details of the Main Research Investigator:**

Gulbeyaz Altun  
BSc Psychology  
University of Plymouth  
E-mail: [gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk)

Thank you for showing interest in participating in this research project. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what your participation will involve. Please read the following information carefully. If you would like to ask questions or you would like more information before deciding to take part, please contact one of the researchers using the contact details listed above.

#### **1. What is the purpose of the project?**

We are carrying out this study on how people perceive trustworthiness based on their first impressions of faces across age. Finding out more about how we socially evaluate faces and interpret behavioural characteristics of trustworthiness can help us learn about what specific cues determine how trustworthy someone can seem. We can also see if there are any age differences in the perception of trustworthiness.

#### **2. Do I have to take part?**

It is your decision whether to take part. If you choose not to participate, you won't incur any penalty. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to give your consent to participate via an online consent form. You can request a copy of this information sheet or the consent form from the researchers by using the contact details provided at the start of this form. Once you have given your consent to participate, you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time before March 2022 without a reason and you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up that point.

#### **3. What will happen to me if I take part?**

Your participation in this study will last no more than 5 minutes. Taking part in this study involves a quick questionnaire about your perspective on what it means to be a trustworthy person. Clear instructions will be provided throughout the task. We will record information about your answers.

Any collected digital information during the experiment will be stored securely and anonymously on the UoP cloud storage system. Once the project is over, the database linking your email address to your identifier will be deleted from our records so that your data is fully anonymised. All information will be handled in accordance with all applicable data protection legislation. Although you will be told the general nature of the task that you will be asked to perform, the full intent of the study will not be explained to you until after the completion of the study. The full purpose of the study does not involve any task or stimuli

that would be likely to cause distress to participants.

You are free to withdraw your data from this study at any time until March 2022. Any personal data you have provided up to that point will be deleted unless you agree otherwise, if you decide to withdraw. This can be done by contacting the researchers either via your recruitment platform or using the contact details provided at the beginning of this form.

#### **4. What if something goes wrong?**

If something goes wrong, you are entitled to make a complaint. If you wish to raise a concern or make a complaint about anything that happens during your participation in the study, please contact the researcher using the contact details given at the start of this form.

#### **5. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

Data collected during the study will be handled in accordance with all applicable data protection legislation. Data collected in this study will be stored securely on University's cloud storage system. The information that you provide could be subject to review by responsible individuals from the University, or funders of the research, for monitoring purposes. If the data from this study are reported or published in scientific meetings or journals, you will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publications.

Data collected during this research is intended to be used for the completion of an undergraduate psychological research project. Data collected during the course of the project may be used for additional or subsequent research. If data is used again in future, you will not be able to be identified. Digital data will be stored in anonymised form on the secure UoP cloud storage system.

If you have questions about participation in the study or require further information, please contact the researchers before completing the consent form.

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research study.**

**Please click on the next button below to proceed to the consent form.**

### **DEBRIEF**

**Thank you for your time and effort in taking part in this study.**

This research project aims to investigate the age differences between younger and older adults in their first impressions of unfamiliar faces, and how younger and older adults perceive and socially evaluate their own age group as well as faces of other age groups.

Earlier research already suggests that older adults and younger adults show similar agreement in impressions of the untrustworthiness of both younger and older faces however, older adults have the tendency to judge faces as being more trustworthy than younger adults, as well as showing own age bias (Zebrowitz et al. 2013). Other studies have found that even though older and younger adults rate faces high in trust cues similarly, faces that convey untrustworthy cues are perceived as being more trustworthy by older adults over younger adults (Castle et al. 2012)

Throughout the study, you were asked questions about what your idea of a trustworthy person is. With the answers you provided throughout the task, we will be able to inform the selection of the specific traits used in a subsequent study.

We were also interested in looking at what information in the face makes a person look more trustworthy. By using a computer software to merge all facial images that have been rated the highest as well as rated the lowest, we can compare and see what changes in the face can make someone seem less or more trustworthy, as well as how this varies with age.

Feel free to contact the Research Supervisor, Dr Mila Mileva, at [mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk) or the Main Research Investigator, Gulbeyaz Altun, at [gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk) if you have any further questions.

## Appendix B

### CONSENT FORM – FACIAL FIRST IMPRESSIONS ACROSS AGE

Thank you for reading our information sheet carefully. If you're happy to take part, we'll need you to give your informed consent. Please read the statements below and use the buttons below to indicate whether you are happy to take part.

I confirm that:

- I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet.
- I meet the inclusion criteria.
- I have had an opportunity to consider the information and what will be expected of me if I take part in the study.
- If I have any questions or concerns about the research, I know I can contact Dr Mila Mileva ([mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk)) or Gulbeyaz Altun ([gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk))

I understand that:

- I understand that all personal information will remain confidential and that all efforts will be made to ensure that I cannot be identified.
- My data will be stored temporarily online in the platform's secure database, and no-one other than the researchers will have access to this online data.
- My data will be moved by the researchers from the online database to a secure cloud storage system used by the University of Plymouth as soon as is practicable.

I understand that:

- My participation in this study is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the study without penalty or having given a reason.
- After completing the study, I can withdraw my data at any time before the research is submitted for publication by contacting the researchers.
- 

**I consent to voluntary participate in this study.**

**I do NOT consent to voluntary participate in this study.**

### INFORMATION SHEET

**Title of Study: Facial First impressions across Age**

**Name and Contact Details of the Research Supervisor:**

Dr Mila Mileva  
School of Psychology  
University of Plymouth  
E-mail: [mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk)

**Name and Contact Details of the Main Research Investigator:**

Gulbeyaz Altun  
BSc Psychology  
University of Plymouth  
E-mail: [gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk)

Thank you for showing interest in participating in this research project. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what your participation will involve. Please read the following information

carefully. If you would like to ask questions or you would like more information before deciding to take part, please contact one of the researchers using the contact details listed above.

## **6. What is the purpose of the project?**

We are carrying out this study on how people perceive trustworthiness based on their first impressions of faces across age. Finding out more about how we socially evaluate faces and interpret behavioural characteristics of trustworthiness can help us learn about what specific cues determine how trustworthy someone can seem. We can also see if there are differences in the perception of trustworthiness.

## **7. Do I have to take part?**

It is your decision whether to take part. If you choose not to participate, you won't incur any penalty. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to give your consent to participate via an online consent form. You can request a copy of this information sheet or the consent form from the researchers by using the contact details provided at the start of this form. Once you have given your consent to participate, you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time before March 2022 without a reason and you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up to that point.

## **8. What will happen to me if I take part?**

Your participation in this study will last no more than 30 minutes. You will be granted participation points for once the study is over. If you choose to withdraw from the study prior to completion, you will not receive your participation point.

Taking part in this study involves a simple rating task. Throughout the experiment, you will be presented with a series of face images. You will be asked to rate each person on several characteristic behaviors based on the trait of trustworthiness, using a scale from 1 (e.g., not at all trustworthy, etc.) to 9 (e.g., extremely trustworthy). Clear instructions will be provided throughout the task. We will record information about your ratings.

Any collected digital information during the experiment will be stored securely and anonymously on the UoP cloud storage system. Once the project is over, the database linking your email address to your identifier will be deleted from our records so that your data is fully anonymised. All information will be handled in accordance with all applicable data protection legislation. Although you will be told the general nature of the task that you will be asked to perform, the full intent of the study will not be explained to you until after the completion of the study. The full purpose of the study does not involve any task or stimuli that would be likely to cause distress to participants.

You are free to withdraw your data from this study at any time until March 2022. If you decide to withdraw, any personal data you have provided up to that point will be deleted unless you agree otherwise. This can be done by contacting the researchers either via your recruitment platform or using the contact details provided at the beginning of this form.

## **9. What if something goes wrong?**

If something goes wrong, you are entitled to make a complaint. If you wish to raise a concern or make a complaint about anything that happens during your participation in the study, please contact the researcher using the contact details given at the start of this form.

## **10. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

Data collected during the study will be handled in accordance with all applicable data protection legislation. Data collected in this study will be stored securely on University's

cloud storage system. The information that you provide may be subject to review by responsible individuals from the University (or sponsors or funders of the research) for monitoring and audit purposes. If the data from this study are reported or published in scientific meetings or journals, you will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publications.

Data collected during this research is intended to be used for the completion of an undergraduate psychological research project. Data collected during the course of the project may be used for additional or subsequent research. If data is used again in future, you will not be able to be identified. Digital data will be stored in anonymised form on the secure UoP cloud storage system.

If you have questions about participation in the study or require further information, please contact the researchers before completing the consent form.

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research study.**

**Please click on the next button below to proceed to the consent form.**

## **DEBRIEF**

**Thank you for your time and effort in taking part in this study.**

This research project aims to investigate the age differences between younger and older adults in their first impressions of unfamiliar faces, and how younger and older adults perceive and socially evaluate their own age group as well as faces of other age groups.

Other research already suggests that older adults and younger adults show similar agreement in impressions of the untrustworthiness of both younger and older faces however, older adults have the tendency to judge faces as being more trustworthy than younger adults, as well as showing own age bias (Zebrowitz et al. 2013). Other studies have found that even though older and younger adults rate faces high in trust cues similarly, faces that convey untrustworthy cues are perceived as being more trustworthy by older adults over younger adults (Castle et al. 2012)

Throughout the study, you were presented with young and old images of the same identities. With the ratings you provided throughout the task, we will be able to determine whether the ratings of both young and old versions of each identity are related to the participant age and whether there is a difference in perception between age groups. We were also interested in looking at what information in the face makes a person look more trustworthy. By using a computer software to merge all facial images that have been rated the highest as well as rated the lowest, we can compare and see what changes in the face can make someone seem less or more trustworthy, as well as how this varies with age.

Feel free to contact the Research Supervisor, Dr Mila Mileva, at [mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mila.mileva@plymouth.ac.uk) or the Main Research Investigator, Gulbeyaz Altun, at [gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:gulbeyaz.altun@students.plymouth.ac.uk) if you have any further questions.

## **Appendix C**

An example of the rating task in Experiment 2 asking the participant to rate how considerate the photo of the individual seems, using a scale from 1 (not at all considerate) to 9 (extremely considerate). The face stimulus is a young adult face.

How **considerate** do you think this person is?



Not at all considerate Extremely considerate

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9