

Identifying Strangers' Race/Ethnicity: Perception of In-Group Versus Out-Group Members

Introduction

- Faces as stimuli have been used in multiple applications in psychological research. (Ebner et al. 2010; Ma et al. 2015)
- No known present database has pictures of individuals from different age groups who are also racial/ethnic minorities.
- We focused on Black/African American and Hispanic/Latiné racial/ethnic groups because they are the largest U.S. minorities.
- When creating a racially/ethnically inclusive facial database, it is imperative the models easily be perceived as from a racial/ethnic in-group.
- We predict raters will have higher racial identification accuracy for photos of models from their own racial group (in-group) than models from a different racial group (out-group), based on previous research on facial identification. (Meissner & Brigham 2001; Lee & Penrod 2021)

Methods

Sample Demographics

- 12 models (H/L=5; female=6) from community
- 48 online raters (female=24; B/AA=16; W=16; H/L=16)
- Photos of two best representations of six common emotions:

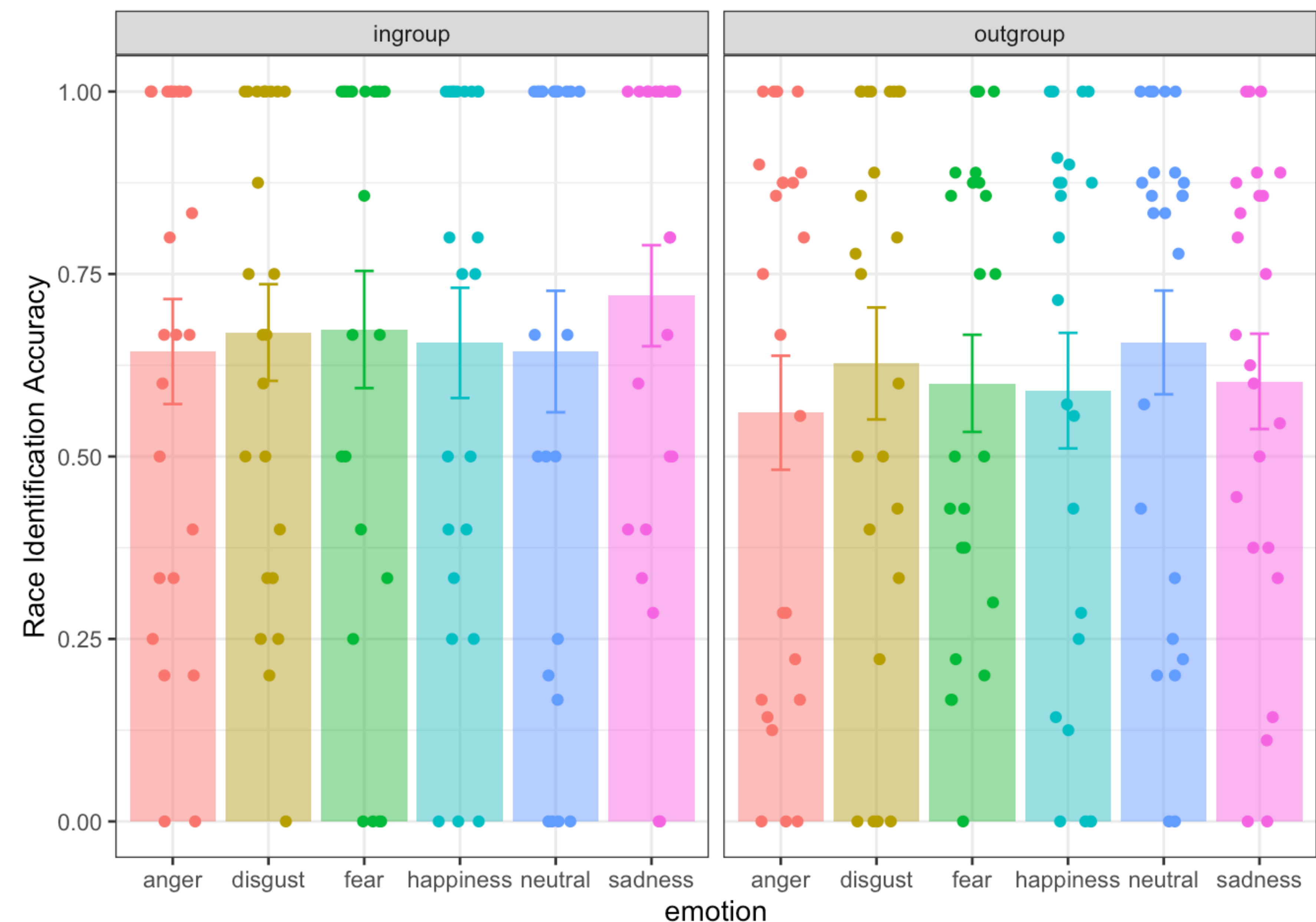


Happy Sad Anger Disgust Fear Neutral

Validation

- Each rater saw 36 randomly selected images and determined:
 - Primary emotion
 - Perceived age
 - Perceived ethnic/racial group and representativeness of that group
 - Perceived trustworthiness
- We assessed models that looked at racial identification accuracy as a function of emotional expression and racial in-group vs. out-group.

Results



Racial identification is better with in-group individuals

- Raters were better at identifying race/ethnicity for in-group models than out-group models.

Racial identification is **NOT** a function of emotional expression

- Emotional expression does not have an effect on racial identification accuracy.

Emotional expression does not moderate in-group vs. out-group effect

- Adding interaction between in-group and emotional expression does not improve model fit.

Conclusion

- These results show our images are good representations of individuals from the Black/African American and Hispanic/Latiné communities as validated by raters from these populations.
- We are actively working to acquire images of more models, with the goal of this pilot study having 36 models from the community, which may provide a more representative array of Black/African American and Hispanic/ Latiné members.
- Future analysis should show if results are moderated by trustworthiness of the face and how representative the model is of a racial/ethnic group.