

EXTRAORDINÁRIA

THE SPECIAL ROLE OF TYPICALITY IN SOCIAL FACE PERCEPTION

Why do we judge some faces to be trustworthy and not others? In this talk I suggest that face typicality may play a major role in social face perception and specifically in trustworthiness judgments. Typical faces are typical because we encounter them more often, and as a consequence are more familiar. Because we trust familiar people more than strangers, typical faces, being more familiar, should be trusted more. I will present evidence that typicality indeed is an important determinant of trustworthiness judgments, above and beyond earlier described models of facial trustworthiness. Moreover, using cross-cultural and statistical learning paradigms, I will argue that trustworthiness judgments are to some extent a function of the faces typical for one's local cultural environment.

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