Special Issue

Action Understanding and Face Processing Interweavings during Development

Message from the Guest Editors

Significant efforts have been made to understand how infants and children become capable of navigating the social world that surrounds them. The domains of face processing and action understanding have been particularly explored. Both faces and actions represent fundamental aspects of social communication, and through them, infants learn about their environment and derive expectations about others' behaviors. Face and action processing mechanisms have been considered separate, and the interconnections between the two domains have been only poorly explored. Faces and actions should be considered as tightly linked. Most of the faces we encounter in life are moving. Others' hand gestures and body postures often elicit certain facial expressions. The identity of a face may elicit certain gestures and actions. Social cues conveyed by faces and actions may be coherent or not, thus providing us with a complex picture about what is going on. The aim of this Special Issue is to deepen the understanding of the interdependencies between facial and action perception processes throughout development, with attention to their neurobiological and neurophysiological underpinnings.

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