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Empirical Aesthetics

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (14 October 2020)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Research into symmetry perception has a long tradition. Symmetry is a salient visual property that can be detected rapidly by the human visual system. In addition, it has been known for a long time that symmetry is also an important factor influencing aesthetic evaluation (and complexity judgments). This has been shown for human faces, artificial black-and-white patterns, and other neutral stimuli.

However, visual symmetry seems to be less relevant for the aesthetic appreciation of artworks. Thus, the role of symmetry in aesthetic appreciation remains an open field of research, and especially in the case of complex images like artworks or real world scenes, the role of symmetry is still somewhat unclear, as perfect symmetry is rare in such images.

This special issue on Empirical Aesthetics welcomes submissions of previously unpublished experimental, theoretical, and review papers on the role of symmetry (and related concepts like balance, composition, visual complexity etc.) in aesthetic evaluation and appreciation of artificial stimuli, faces, real world objects, and artworks, as well as research on individual differences in preference for symmetry.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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