



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

University of Wollongong  
Research Online

---

Faculty of Social Sciences - Papers

Faculty of Social Sciences

---

2014

# The composite effect in static and dynamic familiar face perception

Simone Favelle

*University of Wollongong, skeane@uow.edu.au*

Alanna Tobin

*University of Wollongong, atobin@uow.edu.au*

Daniel Piepers

*University of Western Sydney*

Rachel Robbins

*University of Western Sydney*

Darren Burke

*University of Newcastle*

---

## Publication Details

Favelle, S., Tobin, A., Piepers, D., Robbins, R. & Burke, D. (2014). The composite effect in static and dynamic familiar face perception. *i-Perception*, 5 (4), 209.

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library:  
[research-pubs@uow.edu.au](mailto:research-pubs@uow.edu.au)

---

# The composite effect in static and dynamic familiar face perception

## **Abstract**

Abstract presented at The Asia-Pacific Conference on Vision (APCV) 2014 19-22 July 2014, Takamatsu, Japan

## **Keywords**

perception, face, familiar, dynamic, static, effect, composite

## **Disciplines**

Education | Social and Behavioral Sciences

## **Publication Details**

Favelle, S., Tobin, A., Piepers, D., Robbins, R. & Burke, D. (2014). The composite effect in static and dynamic familiar face perception. *i-Perception*, 5 (4), 209.

---

**O1A-5: The composite effect in static and dynamic familiar face perception****Simone Favelle**

School of Psychology, University of Wollongong, Australia  
[simone\\_favelle@uow.edu.au](mailto:simone_favelle@uow.edu.au)

**Alanna Tobin**

School of Psychology, University of Wollongong, Australia

**Daniel Piepers**

School of Social Science and Psychology, University of Western Sydney, Australia

**Rachel Robbins**

School of Social Science and Psychology, University of Western Sydney, Australia

**Darren Burke**

School of Psychology, University of Newcastle, Australia

Much research has investigated the utility of motion for face perception and recognition; however, the question of how motion influences the way in which faces are processed has been less well studied. Recent studies claiming to test holistic processing for moving faces using the composite task have failed to present faces in the same format (that is, static or dynamic) at both study and test. In this study, we asked participants to learn faces in motion as well as test with composite faces in motion, as compared to static faces at learning and test. We also tested inverted conditions in order to determine the contribution of the motion signal per se to performance. We found a clear composite effect for upright static and upright dynamic faces, and there was no significant difference in the magnitude of those effects as measured by naming reaction time (RT), inverse efficiency or baseline corrected RT. Further, there was no evidence of composite or motion effects in the inverted conditions, ruling out use of the motion signal itself as an explanation of performance. Together, these results show that upright faces in motion are processed holistically in a similar manner to static faces.