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## Composite effects for static and dynamic facial expressions

Alanna Tobin

*University of Wollongong, [atobin@uow.edu.au](mailto:atobin@uow.edu.au)*

Simone Favelle

*University of Wollongong, [skeane@uow.edu.au](mailto:skeane@uow.edu.au)*

Romina Palermo

*University of Western Australia*

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## Composite effects for static and dynamic facial expressions

### Abstract

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## **Composite effects for static and dynamic facial expressions**

**Alanna Tobin** (at122@uowmail.edu.au), School of Psychology, University of Wollongong  
**Simone Favelle**, School of Psychology, University of Wollongong  
**Romina Palermo**, ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders and School of Psychology, University of Western Australia

There is consistent evidence that facial expressions are recognised holistically, based on an integration of all of the information in a face. However, the majority of this research has been conducted using static images of expressions, which neglects the fact that in the real world facial expressions involve movement. The current study used the composite task to determine whether facial expressions in motion show similar hallmarks of holistic processing to static images of expressions. Dynamic stimuli were short video clips of six expressions (anger, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise). Static stimuli were single frames of the peak expression. Upright and inverted conditions were included to test whether evidence for holistic processing was specific to upright facial expressions and also to attempt to isolate the influence of the motion *per se*. Overall, results ( $n = 30$ ) showed clear evidence for holistic processing of both static and dynamic upright expressions but not for inverted expressions. The magnitude of the composite effect in static and dynamic expressions was similar for all expressions except for fear. Findings suggest that while dynamic expressions appear to be processed in a similar holistic manner to static expressions, motion may emphasise featural information in expressions of fear.

## **Short-term false recall and the irrelevant speech effect**

**Anne Tolan** (anne.tolan@acu.edu.au), Psychology, Australian Catholic University  
**J. Roche**, Australian Catholic University  
**G. Tehan**, University of Southern Queensland

To date very little research has examined false recall under short-term conditions, instead the research has focussed on long-term false recall. A false memory is a type of systematic memory error that occurs when events that were not present are remembered as genuine and authentic memories. The current experiment examined short-term false recall for associatively related words by manipulating the phonemic features of an unattended stream of irrelevant speech. The irrelevant speech effect occurs when unattended background speech disrupts memory performance. Participants were required to remember lists of 6 words for immediate serial recall that were either associatively related or unrelated to one another. The phonemic features of the irrelevant speech, which was played during list presentation, either supported the phonemic features of a non-presented critical lure or had no phonemic information in common with the non-presented critical lure. As predicted, false recall was evident under short-term recall conditions. Furthermore, false recall was significantly greater for associatively related items that were presented under conditions where the phonemic information of the irrelevant speech supported a non-presented critical lure.