

## **Attentional Capture of Emotional Hand Gestures and Faces: Effects of Static and Dynamic Stimuli**

Task-irrelevant static emotional faces are known to capture attention. Hand gestures, similar to faces, are biological stimuli that are often used to express emotion. We examined the influence of static and dynamic emotional hand gestures and facial expressions on visual attention. A total of 205 participants identified the gender of static (Experiments 1 to 3) or dynamic (Experiment 4) hand or face stimuli presented briefly in the periphery, while neutral, positive, and negative valence of stimuli was manipulated. It was hypothesised that gender identification accuracy for emotional stimuli is lower compared with neutral stimuli due to attentional capture and interference for both static and dynamic stimuli. Attentional capture was found for static positive and negative hand gestures and negative faces but not for positive faces. Attentional capture was also observed for dynamic positive hand gestures and negative faces but not for dynamic negative hand gestures and positive faces. These experiments demonstrate that both static and dynamic positive and negative hand gestures and dynamic negative faces capture attention. It is contended that attentional capture of emotional stimuli arises due to automatic processing of emotional meaning.