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Father Versus Stranger Face Discrimination in the Human Infant

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Poster Presentation P52

**FATHER VERSUS STRANGER FACE DISCRIMINATION
IN THE HUMAN INFANT**

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The abilities of infants to recognize faces has gained attention in recent years, spurring many researchers to ask not only why and at what age infants recognize familiar faces, but also how the faces are imputed. However, with this surge of research, much of the focus has been on the ability of infants to discriminate their mother's face from that of a stranger. This research expanded on the current field by investigating the ability of infants to discriminate their father's face from a stranger. Through the use of an operant sucking device, the infant controlled the stimuli presentation and thus, controlled the picture seen. Preliminary data indicates that infants at least as young as 3.25 months of age are able to discriminate their fathers' faces from the faces of strangers. The future of this research includes further study of infants' perception, including further study of the abilities of infants to discriminate fathers from strangers in other situations as well as through other means of investigation