



**Illinois Wesleyan University**  
**Digital Commons @ IWU**

---

John Wesley Powell Student Research  
Conference

2004, 15th Annual JWP Conference

---

Apr 17th, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

## **Father Versus Stranger Face Discrimination in the Human Infant**

Erin L. White  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Gail Walton, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

White, Erin L. and Walton, Faculty Advisor, Gail, "Father Versus Stranger Face Discrimination in the Human Infant" (2004). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 27.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2004/posters2/27>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P52

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

Erin L. White and Gail Walton\*

Department of Psychology, Illinois Wesleyan University

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