

Infant-Directed Speech Modulates Subsequent Social Preferences in 5-month-old Infants

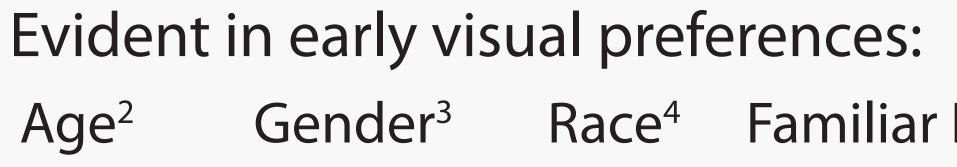
Introduction

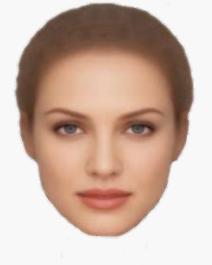
What are the early foundations of social preferences?

Attractiveness¹

Age²

Gender³

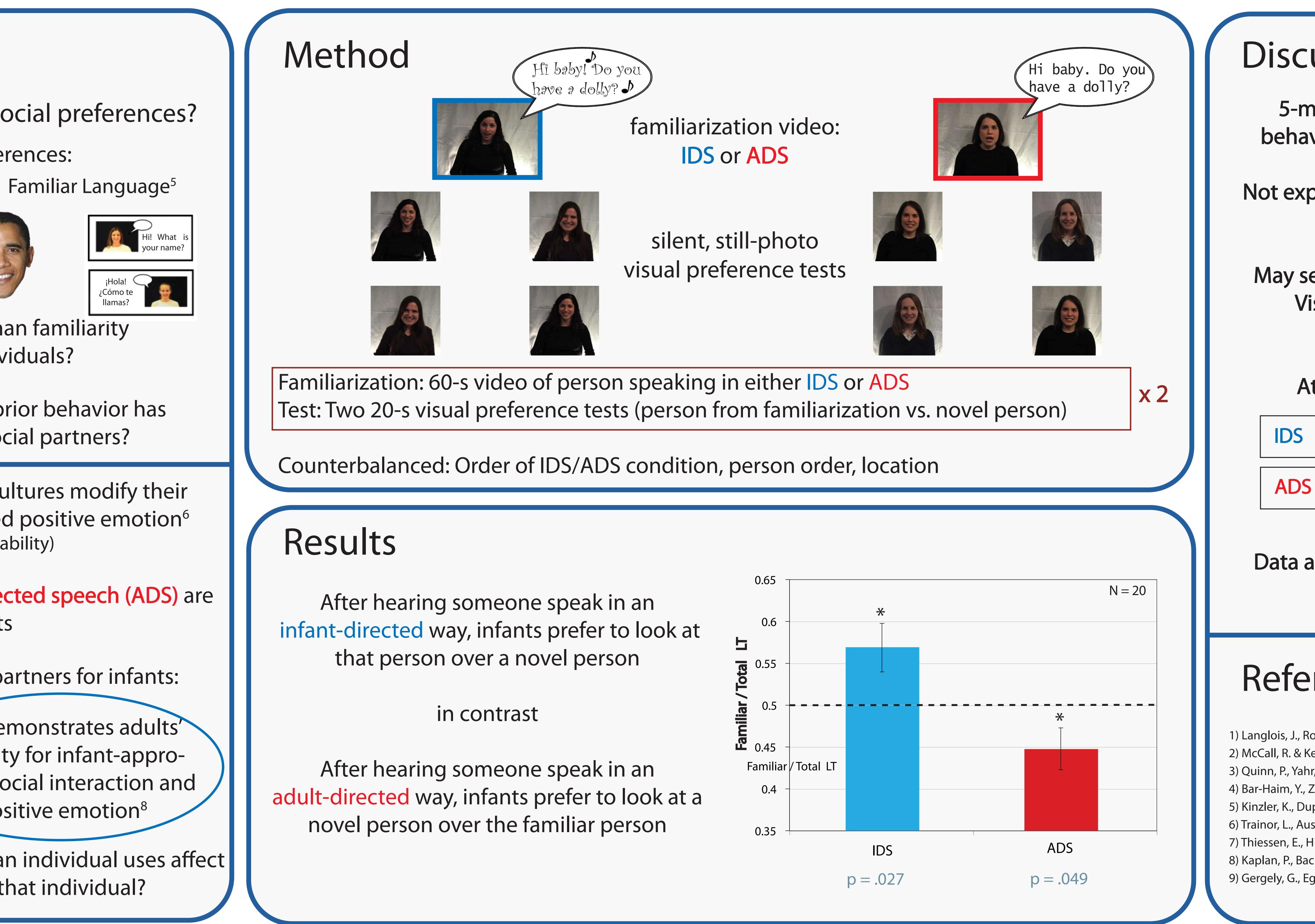












Do elements of behavior other than familiarity lead to preferences for individuals?

Do infants prefer individuals whose prior behavior has indicated they are appropriate social partners?

When speaking to infants, adults in all cultures modify their speech to have exaggerated/ uninhibited positive emotion⁶ (higher pitch, greater pitch variability)

Infant-directed speech (IDS) and adult-directed speech (ADS) are both familiar to infants

IDS may serve to indicate good social partners for infants:

IDS engages infants' attention, modulates emotions⁶ and facilitates learning⁷

IDS demonstrates adults' capacity for infant-appropriate social interaction and positive emotion⁸

Does the infant-appropriateness of speech an individual uses affect infants subsequent preferences for that individual?

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Discussion

5-month-olds use the infant-appropriateness of vocal behavior to guide subsequent preferences for individuals

Not explained by familiarity: IDS and ADS are both familiar to infants

May serve as an important foundation for social reasoning: Visual preference as precursor to social preference

Underlying Representation Attribution of dispositional states? Or a precursor:

Induce positive emotion in infant

Induce neutral/ negative emotion Associate positive valence with person

Associate negative valence with person preference

Novelty preference

Data also consistent with the theory of pedagogy: IDS may serve as an ostensive pedagogical cue⁹

References

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