People form impressions spontaneously and with minimal cognitive effort (Carlston & Skowronski, 2005; Gilbert and Malone, 1995; Newman & Uleman, 1989)

A popular proverb “You can never have a second first impression” tells us that making a good first impression is of particular importance. (-Define first impressions-) Such thin slice perspectives can determine various aspects of our lives, ranging from our success at job interviews and promotions (Fruhen, Watkins & Jones, 2015), luck of finding the right dating partner (Zebrowitz & Luevano, 2007), electoral outcomes (Little, Burriss, Jones, & Roberts, 2007; Ballew & Todorov, 2007; Todorov, Mandisodza, Goren, & Hall, 2005) and even to sentencing decisions (Blair, Judd & Chapleau, 2004; Eberhardt, Davies, Purdie-Vaughns, & Johnson, 2006). Despite this whole line of evidence, some recent research suggests that, in fact, first impressions can be reinterpreted and changed under some circumstances (Mann & Ferguson, 2015). However, while there is not a lot research suggesting that our first impressions can be easily rewritten, we should keep in mind that these snap judgements of others may have a significant impact on how our relationships further develop.

Back in 1876, one of the criminal anthropology pioneers Cesare Lombroso proposed that one can easily detect a person of a delinquent character simply by observing their facial traits. Years later, it is now believed that not only facial features, but also emotions (...), voice (Klofstad & Anderson, 2012; McAleer, Belin, & Todorov, 2014; Klofstad, Anderson, & Nowicki, 2015), bodily posture, and behaviours exhibited (...) can communicate a great deal of information about target’s personality. However, majority of current research tends to focus on target person’s face (...). (age? Race? Gender? Ethnicity?)

In this review, we will provide theoretical approach as to why we make first impressions. We will focus on evolutionary and ecological theories. Also, we will discuss accuracy and consistency of these judgements in the light of recent literature.