

Crowd emotion: reading emotional expressions from crowds of faces

The effects of crowd gender, viewers' anxiety, and task demands

Hee Yeon Im

Department of Radiology, Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital

Daniel Albohn

Department of Psychology, The Penn State University

Reginald Adams

Department of Psychology, The Penn State University

Kestas Kveraga

Department of Radiology, Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital



Reading the overall emotion of crowds



Social behavior

Avoid?

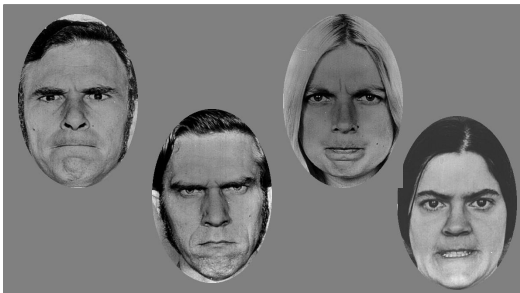


Approach?

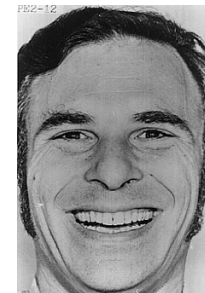


- This ability varies across individuals.
- Our question: how we extract crowd emotion from groups of faces and why are we doing this differently?

Avoid?

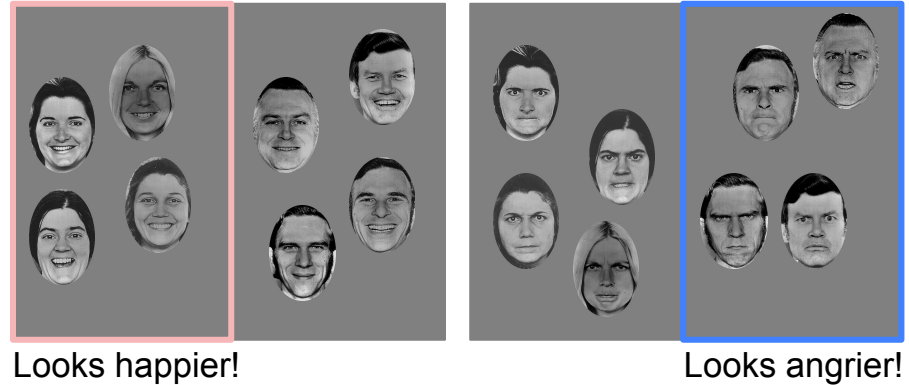
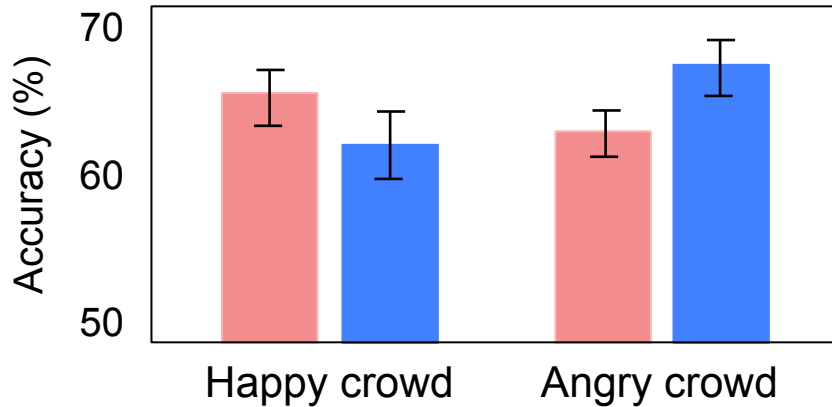


Approach?

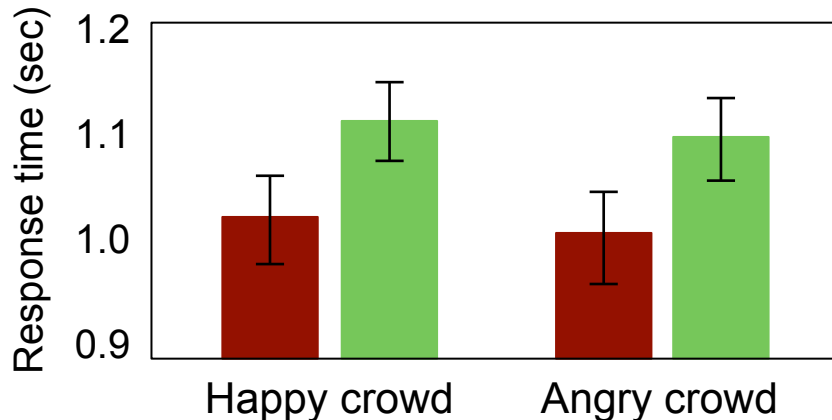


Effects of face gender and viewers' anxiety

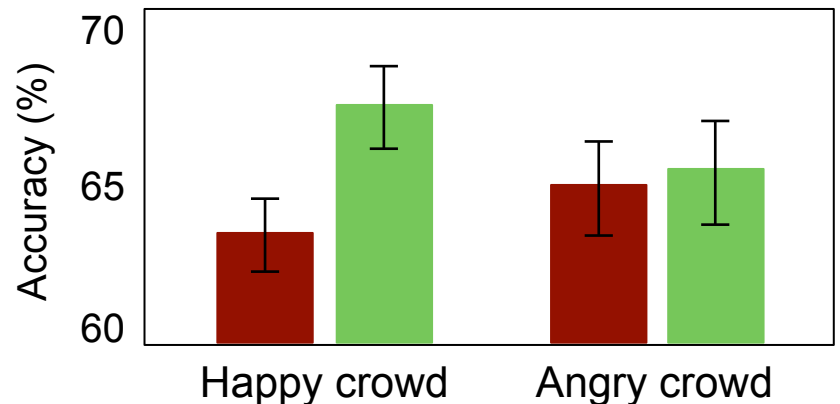
Happy **female** crowds and angry **male** crowds were identified more accurately.



High-anxiety individuals responded faster than **low-anxiety individuals**.

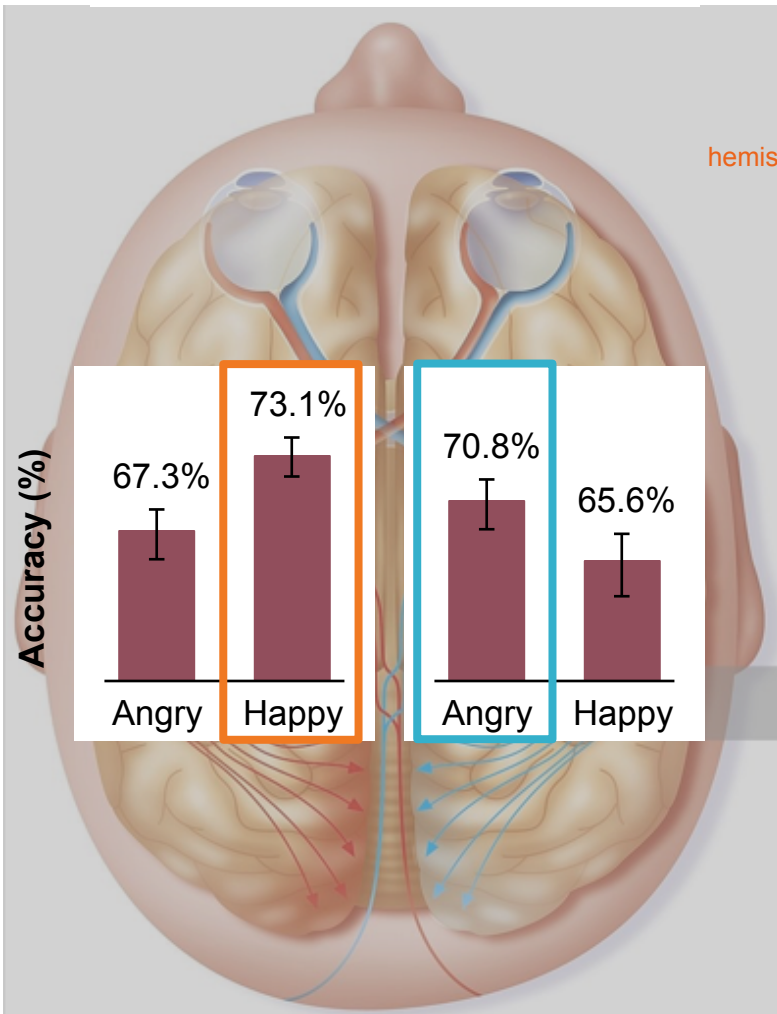


High-anxiety individuals made more errors for happy crowds (not for angry crowds)

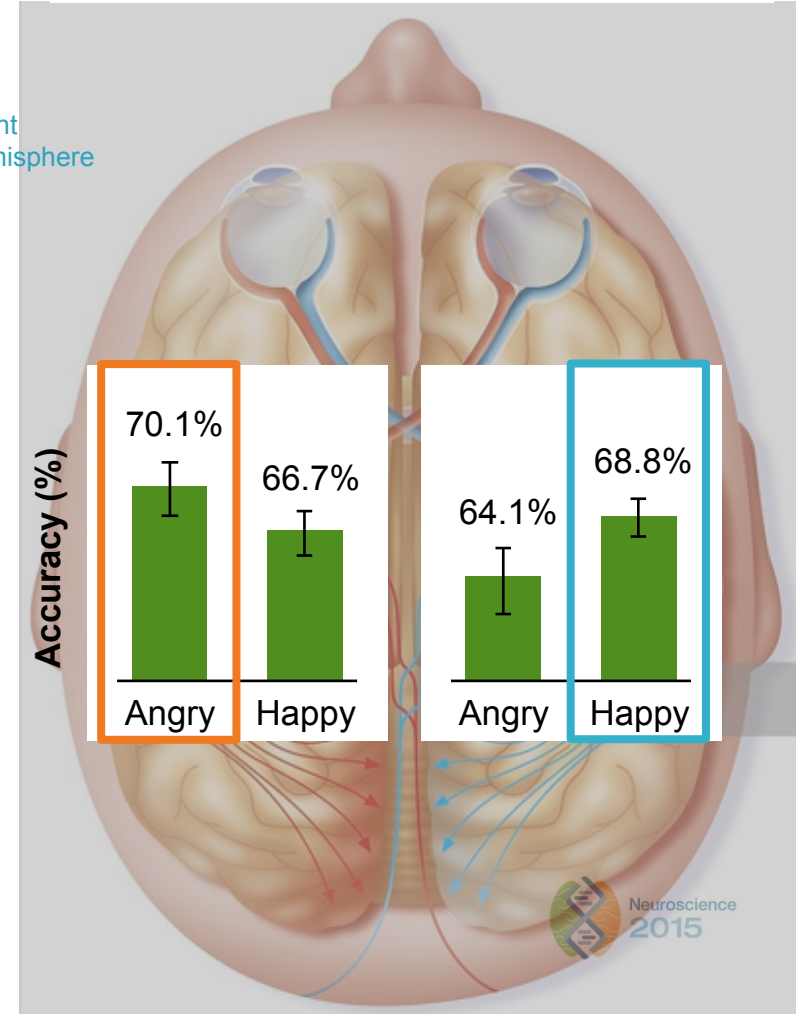


Roles of left and right hemispheres depend on task demand

Task demand: Avoid

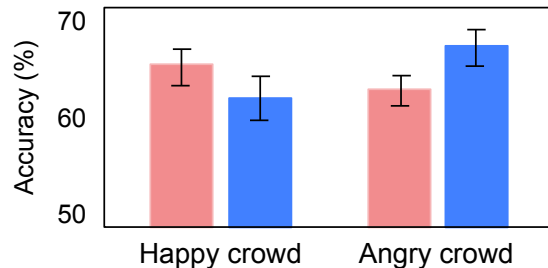


Task demand: Approach

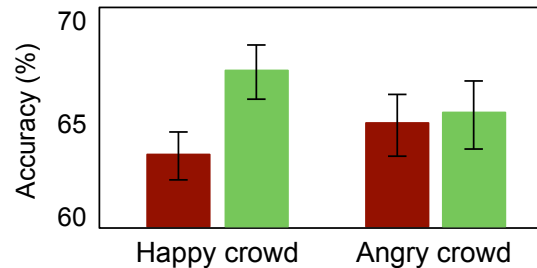


The human brain quickly extracts crowd emotion

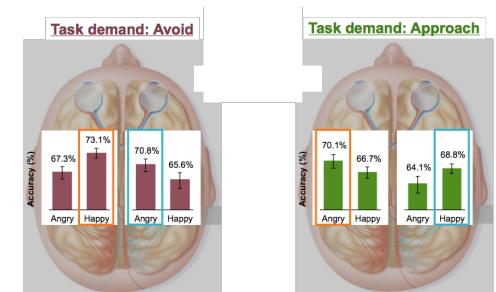
Higher accuracy for **happy female** crowds and **angry male** crowds



High-anxiety people: faster reaction overall, but more errors for happy crowds



Task-dependent role switching between left and right hemispheres



More results and details about this study:

Talk session: Emotional Processing and Regulation (Location: N228, 10/20/2015, Time: 3:15pm-3:30pm)

Title: The integrative process of reading emotional expressions from a crowd of faces