

### Investigating the 'dehumanizing gaze' towards facial difference using eye-tracking technology

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**19th General Meeting** of the European Association of Social Psychology

> Kraków June 30th - July 4th, 2023





# Investigating the 'dehumanizing gaze' towards facial difference using eye-tracking technology

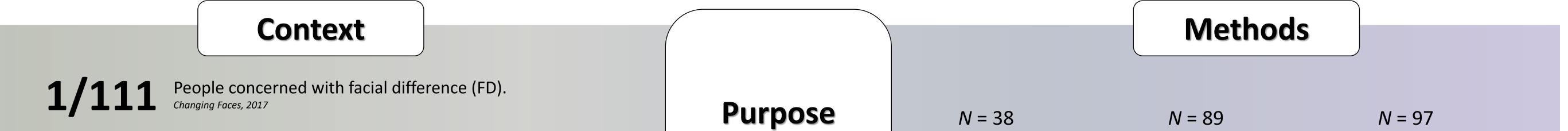
## **Project VISHU**

R https://www.researchgate.net/project/VISage-et-HUmanite-comprendre-et-prevenir-les-difficultes-dintegration-sociale-des-personnes-atteintes-de-defiguration-faciale



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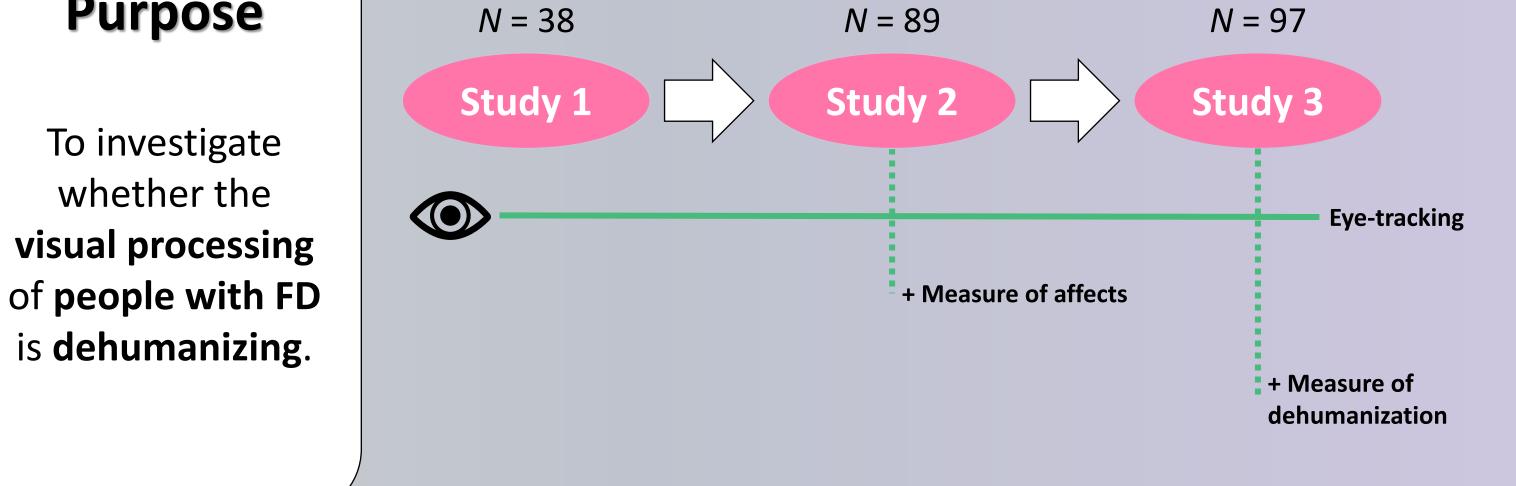
Stares and emotions are at the core of their stigma. Rasset et al., 2022a

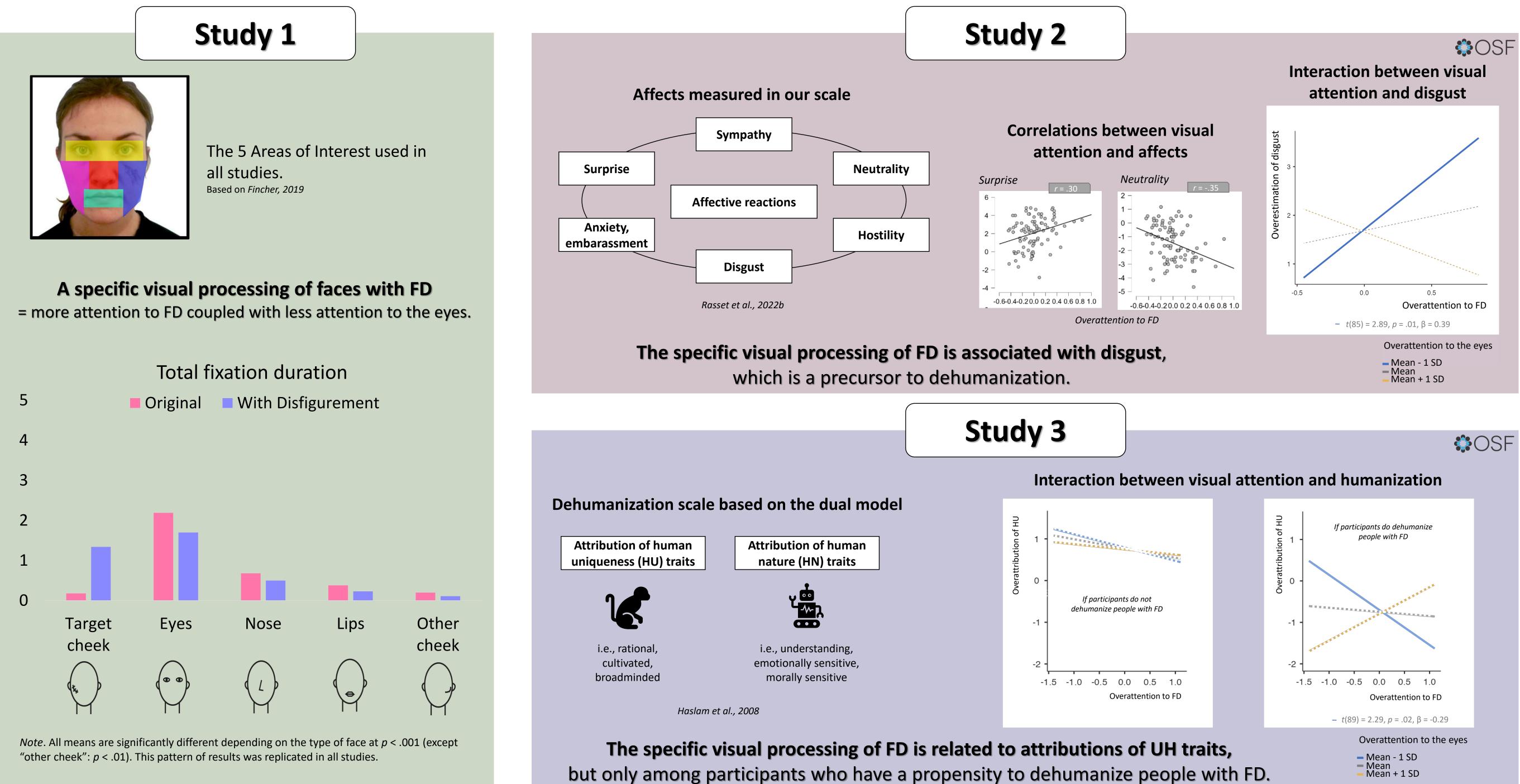


The visual processing of faces with FD appears to significantly differ from that observed on all other human faces, which could thus indicate their dehumanization. Boutsen et al., 2022

Dehumanization refers to both a content of social perception but also to a particular form of perception (i.e., piecemeal processing). Bernard et al., 2018

Dehumanization remains to be investigated in the perception of people with FD.





# Discussion

## Findings supporting our hypothesis of the dehumanizing gaze :

- There is a **specific visual processing** of faces with FD,  $\checkmark$
- which is **associated with emotions** that serve as precursors to dehumanization,  $\checkmark$
- As well as **dehumanization** itself, but only under certain conditions.  $\checkmark$

### Limitations



Bernard, P., Gervais, S. J., & Klein, O. (2018). Objectifying objectification: When and why people are cognitively reduced to their parts akin to objects. European Review of Social Psychology, 29(1), 82–121. https://doi.org/10.1080/10463283.2018.1471949 Boutsen, L., Pearson, N. A., & Jüttner, M. (2022). Do facially disfiguring features influence attention and perception of faces? Evidence from an antisaccade task. Quarterly Journal of *Experimental Psychology*, *75*(5), 830–840. https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218211041621 Changing Faces. (2017). Disfigurement in the UK. www.changingfaces.org.uk/mediaguidelines Fincher, K. M. (2019). Social antecedents and perceptual consequences of how we look at others. Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, 148(1), 143–157. https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0000506 Haslam, N., Loughnan, S., Kashima, Y., & Bain, P. (2008). Attributing and denying humanness to others. European Review of Social Psychology, 19(1), 55-85. https://doi.org/10.1080/10463280801981645 Hollett, R. C., Rogers, S. L., Florido, P., & Mosdell, B. (2022). Body Gaze as a Marker of Sexual Objectification: A New Scale for Pervasive Gaze and Gaze Provocation Behaviors in Heterosexual Women and Men. Archives of Sexual Behavior, 51(6), 2759–2780. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-022-02290-y Lantos, D. (2023). Dehumanization propensity as an individual difference. Current Opinion in *Behavioral Sciences, 50*(March), 101259. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cobeha.2023.101259 Rasset, P., Mange, J., Montalan, B., & Stutterheim, S. E. (2022a). Towards a better understanding of the social stigma of facial difference. *Body Image*, 43, 450–462. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bodyim.2022.10.011 Rasset, P., Mange, J., & Montalan, B. (2022b). (Un)veiling Distinct Feelings: A Typology of Affective Reactions While Meeting People With Facial Disfigurement for the First Time. Stigma and Health. https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000364 Rasset, P., Mange, J., & Montalan, B. (2022c). Look me in the eyes! A pre-registered eyetracking study investigating visual attention and affective reactions to faces with a visible difference. *Body Image*, 40, 67–77. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bodyim.2021.10.010

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Some of these findings are **exploratory** and **correlational** in nature. X

## **Future directions**

- An impact of dehumanization propensity (Lantos, 2023) ?
- The need for new measures of dehumanization. Ą
- The relationship between the dehumanizing gaze and the objectifying gaze (see Hollett et al., 2022). Ą



