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Original Article



# SOCIAL PERCEPTION OF FACES AMONG DIFFERENT RACIAL GROUPS BY RUSSIAN STUDENTS

*The study analyzes the mechanisms underlying the perception of faces belonging to people of European, Asian, and African ancestry. It aimed to determine the relative impact of individual morphological facial features, ancestry, the observer's gender and personality on social judgements. The sample included 243 respondents (Russian students of European ancestry) who rated 15 standardized photo portraits of models from three racial groups according to the criteria of attractiveness, aggressiveness, altruism, and social status. Additionally, the observers' personality traits were measured using psychodiagnostic tools (BFI-2-XS, BPAQ, Helpfulness Questionnaire). It was demonstrated that individual morphological features of the face were the dominant factor influencing social judgements. This factor significantly exceeded the effect of the racial category. Stable perceptual patterns were identified, such as the "halo effect" and a negative correlation between perceived aggressiveness and prosocial characteristics. The influence of the models' racial affiliation proved to be statistically significant but weak. The respondent's gender was found to be a significant modulator of perception: men and women demonstrated different strategies for ranking racial-gender groups by attractiveness and aggressiveness. At the same time, the stable personality characteristics of observers were found to have no systematic connection with basic evaluations of neutral faces. The obtained data indicate the priority of universal mechanisms of primary perception over categorical and individual-psychological factors.*

**Keywords:** *big races, facial morphology, personality traits, aggressiveness, attractiveness, , first impression, social perception*

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