

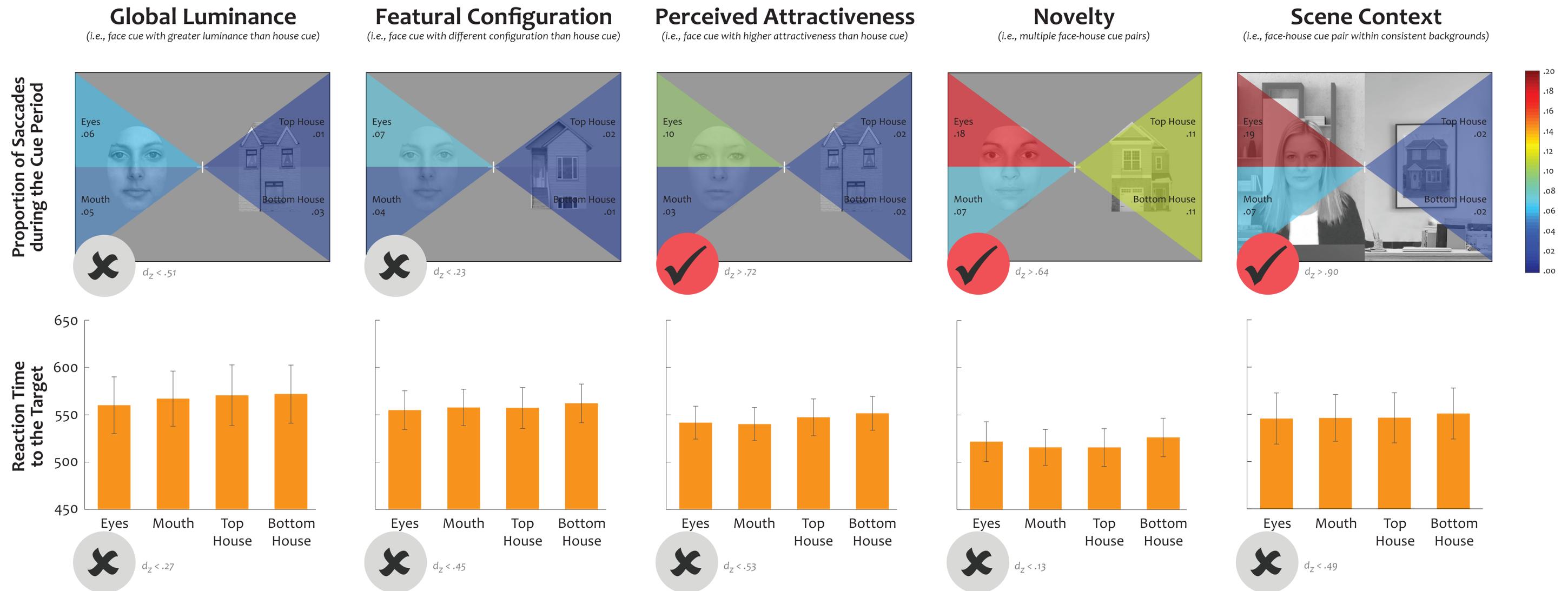
faces may not be special for attention after all



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While a large amount of research has reported that faces preferentially attract attention, our recent investigations controlling faces for internal and external features cast doubt onto this conclusion (Pereira, Birmingham, & Ristic, *Psych Research*, 2019; *Vision*, 2019; *J Exp Psych: Hum Percept Perform*, 2022; *Atten Percept Psych*, 2022). Across five experiments, we used the dot-probe task to present participants with a cue screen (i.e., social face and non-social house image) that varied either internal or external facial features, followed by a target that could appear at the prior location of the eyes or mouth of the face or the top or bottom of the house. Together, our findings demonstrate that social attentional biasing can be modulated across overt measures (i.e., proportion of saccades to the cue) and abolished across covert measures (i.e., reaction time to the target).



Social attentional biasing is likely driven by a combination of internal, external, and task factors, in addition to varying as a function of the mode of attentional engagement.