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Gender effects on the understanding kind and hostile intentions displayed by dyadic body movements

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Statement of the Problem:

Understanding different kinds of communicative intentions conveyed by others is essential for successful human interaction. However, the gender effects of the observers and actors/actresses in processing the kind and hostiles communicative intentions within social interactions are largely unknown.

Methodology & Theoretical

Orientation: In order to explore the gender effects in understanding kind and hostile intentions (versus non-interactive intention) displayed by dyadic individuals' whole body movement, we recorded the accuracy and reaction time (RT) when participants

performed the intention inference task. Sixty college students were recruited to participate in the experiment.

Findings: Both significant main effects of the gender of observers and actors/actresses on the accuracy existed, which showed female observers performed better than the males on intention understanding and demonstrated a prominent male actors' advantage, respectively. The results also indicated higher accuracies and shorter RTs in hostile intention understanding, which were consistent with the negative bias theory. Notably, a significant interaction effect between the gender of actors/actresses and intention conditions on RTs was found. It showed longer RTs on understanding the kind intentions of actors than those of actresses while understanding hostile intentions showed a reverse pattern. Meanwhile, neither main effect of the gender of the observers nor interaction effects between

the gender of observers and other independent factors on the RTs were found.

Conclusion & Significance:

The evidence demonstrated that the behavioral processing underlying social intentions understanding may vary with different types of communicative intentions, which was also modulated by the gender of the actors/actresses. The study may help to understand gender vulnerability to neuropsychiatric impairments in social intentions reading.

Biography

Liang Huang has his expertise in evaluation and passion for improving human beings' wellbeing. The putative hierarchical & Multi-level Cognitive Framework (HMCF) in Theory of Mind developed by him and his colleagues provides new insights into understanding the communication disorders in healthy individuals or individuals with autistics or narcissism. He has built this model after years of experience in research, teaching, and administration both in hospital and education institutions. He strives for exploring the neural correlates of social mindfulness in order to improve human being's health problem caused by the entangled interpersonal relationship in Chinese now.

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