

Since further
research by
kanwisher et al
(1999)



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Since Kanwisher et al's (1997) original study into the FFA, there has been much research into the exclusiveness of the FFA and facial perceptions.

Kanwisher, Tong and Nakayama, (1998) concluded that with the use of a fMRI that the FFA responds to faces. Further research by Kanwisher et al (1999) tested whether the human FFA responds not only to faces but to anything else, using fMRI the strongest responses were to stimuli containing faces, results demonstrating that the FFA is selective for faces.

An magnetoencephalography study found that examples of pareidolia, evoked an early activation in the FFA, at a time and location similar to that evoked by faces, whereas other common objects do not evoke such activation, supporting the exclusiveness of FFA and its role in facial perception (Hadjikhani et al, 2009). Puce et al (1996) again using fMRI found that face stimuli evoked greater right hemispheric activation, with characteristic patterns localised to FFS. Additional evidence for the exclusiveness of FFA and facial information comes from (Tong et al., 2000), who discovered that activation of the FFA also occurs for faces of cats, cartoons, as well as human faces, and insignificant for non-face stimuli. A case study of C.

K who suffered from agnosia supports the theory of separate processes in identifying faces, objects and places etc. He experienced extreme difficulty with basic level object recognition, also body parts, but performed well at recognising faces, providing evidence that the FFA is specialised for processing faces in a normal orientation. Interestingly, it is found that there is stronger activity in the FFA when a person sees a familiar face as opposed to an unfamiliar one (Weibert & Andrews 2015).