Using ecphoric confidence ratings to discriminate seen from unseen faces: The effects of retention interval and distinctiveness

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Abstract Theories of confidence processing for recognition judgments suggest that confidence indexes the degree of match between a presented stimulus and an image in memory (*ecphoric similarity*). Recent research has demonstrated that having participants rate their confidence that a face had been previously seen provides an equivalent or a better index of the stimulus's status than does eliciting a simple binary response (Sauer, Brewer, & Weber, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* 137: 528–547, 2008). Using a face recognition paradigm, we manipulated retention interval and stimulus distinctiveness to directly test the suggestion that confidence indexes ecphoric similarity and to probe the boundary conditions for using confidence ratings to discriminate seen from unseen faces. Consistent with the proposed ecphoric basis for confidence ratings, mean confidence was higher for previously seen than for unseen faces, and conditions conducive to the formation of strong memories improved confidence-based discrimination. In all conditions, after the application of a classification algorithm, confidence ratings provided a more sensitive index of face status (i.e., seen or unseen) than did binary responses.

Keywords Confidence · Face recognition · Memory · Metamemory

The drastic consequences of eyewitness identification errors raise important questions, such as is it possible to directly assess a witness's memory, while avoiding nonmemorial influences that contribute to errors? Optimizing the indices of stimulus–memory match, though central to eyewitness identification reliability, has not been a focus for memory researchers. Thus, the effectiveness of the memory probes used to test eyewitness recognition memory has not been systematically examined. Sauer, Brewer, and Weber (2008) suggested that confidence ratings may provide a relatively direct measure of stimulus–memory match (*ecphoric similarity*; Tulving, 1981). Across various paradigms and stimuli, results have shown that having participants rate their confidence that a face has been previously seen (i.e., “How confident are you that you have seen this stimulus before?”) provides an equivalent or a better index of the stimulus's status than does eliciting a simple binary response (i.e., “Have you seen this stimulus before?”). Here, we tested whether confidence ratings index ecphory and explored two boundary conditions for using confidence ratings to discriminate previously seen from unseen faces. We also investigated the mechanisms underlying the diagnostic advantage associated with “ecphoric confidence” ratings.

Ecphoric confidence ratings are distinct from both retrospective confidence judgments and typical confidence response scales (e.g., ratings from *sure old* to *sure new*). Retrospective confidence judgments reflect assessments of decision accuracy. Similarly, typical confidence response scales include an inherent old/new decision, with the scale points representing gradations of confidence in that decision. Conversely, while ecphoric confidence ratings possibly involve an implicit decision, they do not demand an old/new decision, only an assessment of the match between a stimulus and item in memory. Avoiding explicit decisions may attenuate nondiagnostic influences on decision criteria,

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offering a more sensitive index of ecphory, and resulting in improvements in discrimination. Alternatively, more fine-grained dependent variables may simply offer more sensitive measures of recognition. To investigate the effects of scale-grain size on discrimination, we calculated “recognition ratings” (ranging from –100 [*certain new*] to 100 [*certain old*]; cf. Tenney, MacCoun, Spellman, & Hastie, 2007) by combining binary responses with retrospective confidence ratings, and then compared classification performance using these ratings with performance using ecphoric confidence and binary responses.

Using a face recognition paradigm, we investigated participants’ ability to use ecphoric confidence ratings to index recognition. First, we investigated how changes in retention interval and stimulus distinctiveness affected the confidence ratings given to studied and unstudied stimuli and, consequently, the level of discrimination afforded by confidence ratings. Second, we examined how these manipulations affected classification performance using ecphoric confidence and binary judgments.

Recognition memory performance declines as the retention interval increases (e.g., Ebbinghaus, 1964; Schacter, 1999). We examined how delay-related declines in memory quality affect ecphoric confidence. This issue is important for two reasons. First, if ecphoric confidence ratings are insensitive to memory quality, they will not provide a reliable index of ecphory/recognition. Studies examining retrospective confidence ratings have consistently demonstrated that retrospective confidence judgments are less sensitive than memory performance itself to a variety of manipulations (e.g., Gigerenzer, Hoffrage, & Kleinbölting, 1991; Weber & Brewer, 2004). Although retrospective and ecphoric confidence are distinct, both presumably index memory and stimulus discriminability (see Macmillan & Creelman, 1991; Van Zandt, 2000; Wixted & Mickes, 2010). Importantly, the present research is the first to test whether ecphoric confidence ratings track changes in memory quality. Second, increasing delay reduces discriminability. If confidence indexes stimulus–memory match, increased delay should reduce (a) confidence for old faces, (b) the difference between confidence ratings for old and new faces, and consequently, (c) discrimination using ecphoric confidence. Essentially, weaker memories provide an impoverished basis for comparisons supporting assessments of ecphoric similarity. Delay-induced reductions in ecphoric confidence ratings for old faces would support the theoretical claim that confidence indexes ecphory. However, low ecphoric confidence ratings may reflect newness or a paucity of evidence of oldness. If the latter influence is too extreme, the usefulness of ecphoric confidence in discriminating old from new faces will be undermined. To begin testing the boundary conditions for the usefulness of confidence ratings, we compared delay-related declines in

discriminability using ecphoric confidence ratings with declines using a binary response comparison.

We also used distinctive and typical face stimuli. Increasing stimulus distinctiveness improves recognition memory performance (see, e.g., Light, Kayra-Stuart, & Hollander, 1979; Semmler & Brewer, 2006) and influences ecphoric confidence ratings (cf. Sauer et al., 2008). Relative to typical stimuli, distinctive stimuli produce stronger and more readily accessible memory traces. This would lead to higher confidence ratings for old distinctive, as compared to old typical, stimuli, as well as lower confidence ratings for new distinctive, as compared to new typical, stimuli (cf. Dodson & Schacter, 2002). Similarly, signal detection theory (Macmillan & Creelman, 1991) holds that the signal strength distributions for old and new faces show less overlap for distinctive than for typical stimuli. We tested whether ecphoric confidence ratings tracked these changes in memory strength. While ecphoric confidence ratings may provide effective classification for distinctive stimuli (even after a delay; see Shepherd, Gibling, & Ellis, 1991), combining reduced memory quality due to increased delay with reduced discriminability for typical stimuli may undermine discrimination using ecphoric confidence ratings. We tested whether such effects on ecphoric confidence ratings exceeded those on a binary response comparison.

In sum, we addressed three questions. First, do variations in memory quality affect discrimination using ecphoric confidence ratings? We answered this question by examining the effects of our manipulations on (a) mean ecphoric confidence ratings for studied (old) versus unstudied (new) faces, and (b) measures of calibration and resolution. Given the proposed memorial basis for ecphoric confidence ratings, we expected delay-induced reductions in memory quality to reduce the mean confidence for old faces and, consequently, to reduce discrimination. On the basis of previous research, we expected higher (or lower) mean confidence for old (vs. new) distinctive stimuli than for old (vs. new) typical stimuli. Second, when memory quality is reduced, does classification performance using ecphoric confidence remain superior, or at least equivalent, to that for binary responses? We expected reduced memory quality to reduce discrimination using ecphoric confidence. However, how this would affect classification performance was unclear. We assessed classification performance using measures of both discrimination (d') and criterion placement¹ (c). Finally, we compared classification performance using ecphoric confidence and recognition ratings to investigate the contribution of scale-grain size to the benefits associated

¹ Here, c has an atypical interpretation. As confidence condition participants did not make “old”/“new” responses, c does not index participants’ criterion placement. Rather, it indexes the placement of the optimal criterion, identified by the classification algorithm.

with the use of ecphoric confidence ratings (cf. binary responses).

Method

Participants

A group of 96 (68 male, 28 female) undergraduate students participated, ranging in age from 16 to 63 years ($M = 26$, $SD = 11$).

Design

We used a 3 (retention interval: immediate test, 1-week delay, 2-week delay) $\times$ 2 (response type: binary response, confidence) $\times$ 2 (distinctiveness: distinctive, typical) $\times$ 2 (face status: old, new) mixed design. The participants were randomly allocated to one of the six cells created by crossing retention interval with response type. Face status and distinctiveness were varied within subjects. Participants viewed equal numbers of distinctive and typical faces, with half of the faces in each category at test being old.

Stimuli

We used the 96 color photographs of faces that had been used by Sauer et al. (2008, Exp. 1). The photographs showed male and female individuals of Caucasian descent, ranging in age from young to elderly adults. The photographs were obtained from databases at Flinders University and the University of Stirling, as well as the AR Face Database (Martinez & Benavente, 1998). The photographs displayed the head and neck of each individual. At study and test, the photographs were displayed on 19-in. monitors at a size of 200×200 pixels, with a resolution of $1,024 \times 768$ pixels.

The photographs had previously been sorted according to distinctiveness. Semmler and Brewer (2006) had 34 participants rate faces on a 7-point distinctiveness scale (1 = *typical*, 7 = *distinctive*). The photographs were divided into three categories (distinctive, moderate, and typical) according to the mean distinctiveness ratings. We selected faces from only the “distinctive” and “typical” categories. The mean distinctiveness ratings for distinctive male and female faces were $M = 4.59$ ($SD = 0.53$) and 4.28 ($SD = 0.50$), respectively. For male and female typical faces, the mean distinctive ratings were $M = 2.82$ ($SD = 0.25$) and 2.73 ($SD = 0.23$).

Procedure

Participants were tested individually. Computers presented the instructions and stimuli and recorded the responses. The

participants first completed a study phase and a 3-min filler task and then, immediately or following a delay, the test phase. In the study phase, they were presented a series of 48 photographs for 500 ms each, with an interstimulus interval of 500 ms. The participants were asked to attend closely to the photographs, as they would be questioned about them later.

The test phase included 96 trials. Each trial required participants to respond to a single face. Participants in the binary response condition indicated whether or not each face had been presented earlier by clicking a “Yes” or a “No” button. After each response, the participants rated their confidence in the accuracy of their decision (from 0 % to 100 %, with decile response options). Participants in the confidence condition rated their confidence, from 0 % to 100 % (with decile response options), that each face had been presented earlier. The participants were not given any other instructions (or verbal anchors) for interpreting the confidence scale.

Results

Effect sizes were measured using Cohen’s f . The cutoff values for small, medium, and large effects according to this measure are 0.10, 0.25, and 0.40, respectively. Analyses comparing the immediate testing condition with each of the delayed conditions produced similar patterns of results,² so we collapsed across delay conditions.

Ecphoric confidence ratings, calibration, and discrimination

We tested the old–new confidence difference using a 2 (retention interval: immediate, delayed test) $\times$ 2 (distinctiveness: distinctive, typical) $\times$ 2 (face status: old, new) mixed ANOVA (see Tables 1 and 2 for descriptive and inferential statistics, respectively). The significant main effect of face status indicated higher mean confidence for old than for new faces. The significant Face Status $\times$ Retention Interval interaction revealed that this difference decreased as retention interval increased. The significant Face Status $\times$ Distinctiveness interaction showed a stronger effect of face status for distinctive than for typical faces.

These effects must be interpreted alongside the small but significant Face Status $\times$ Distinctiveness $\times$ Retention Interval interaction. Simple-effects analyses revealed a moderate Face Status $\times$ Retention Interval interaction for distinctive faces, $F(1, 46) = 24.52$, $p = .00$, $f = 0.35$. As retention interval increased, the difference in mean confidence ratings

² The effect of retention interval on c was significant when immediate testing was compared to the short, but not the long, delay condition. No other differences were significant.

Table 1 Mean, *SD*, and 95 % confidence interval (CI) statistics for confidence according to distinctiveness, face type, and retention interval for the confidence response condition

Distinctiveness & Face Type	Retention Interval	
	Immediate Test	Delayed Test
Distinctive Faces		
Old		
<i>M</i>	.56	.46
<i>SD</i>	.11	.14
95 % CI	.50–.62	.41–.51
New		
<i>M</i>	.23	.30
<i>SD</i>	.09	.11
95 % CI	.18–.28	.26–.34
Overall		
<i>M</i>	.40	.38
<i>SD</i>	.08	.12
95 % CI	.36–.44	.34–.42
Typical Faces		
Old		
<i>M</i>	.46	.42
<i>SD</i>	.11	.12
95 % CI	.40–.51	.38–.46
New		
<i>M</i>	.33	.35
<i>SD</i>	.11	.11
95 % CI	.27–.39	.31–.39
Overall		
<i>M</i>	.40	.39
<i>SD</i>	.10	.11
95 % CI	.34–.45	.35–.43
Overall		
Old		
<i>M</i>	.51	.44
<i>SD</i>	.10	.12
95 % CI	.46–.56	.40–.48
New		
<i>M</i>	.28	.33
<i>SD</i>	.09	.10
95 % CI	.18–.28	.26–.34
Overall		
<i>M</i>	.40	.38
<i>SD</i>	.08	.10
95 % CI	.35–.44	.35–.42

for old and new distinctive faces decreased. As expected, after a delay, confidence ratings for old distinctive faces decreased. Furthermore, confidence ratings for new distinctive faces increased. However, the interaction for typical faces was small and nonsignificant (after a Bonferroni

Table 2 Mixed ANOVA on ecphoric confidence ratings

Effect	<i>df</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Subjects				
Retention interval (R)	1	0.18	0.05	.68
R error	46	(382.38)		
Within Subjects				
Face status (F)	1	175.54	0.71	.00
F × R	1	19.62	0.24	.00
F error	46	(71.04)		
Distinctiveness (D)	1	0.02	0.01	.90
D × R	1	0.22	0.02	.64
D error	46			
F × D	1	79.01	0.32	.00
F × D × R	1	11.07	0.12	.00
F × D error	46	(31.49)		

Values in parentheses represent mean-squared errors

correction), $F(1, 46) = 4.52$, $p = .04$, $f = 0.12$. Contrary to expectations, increased delay did not affect confidence ratings for typical faces. Perhaps ecphoric confidence ratings are insensitive to changes in memory quality. Alternatively, they may offer a robust index of stimulus discriminability. The analyses of d' , reported below, suggest the latter interpretation.

We plotted calibration curves (e.g., Weber & Brewer, 2003) to further investigate the effects of varied retention interval and distinctiveness on the utility of confidence ratings in discriminating old from new faces (see Fig. 1). The confidence data were collapsed from the 11 initial confidence categories into five weighted categories (i.e., 0 %–20 %, 30 %–40 %, 50 %–60 %, 70 %–80 %, and 90 %–100 % confidence), providing a more stable representation of the relationship. The calibration functions reveal, in all conditions, a generally linear, positive relationship between the level of confidence expressed and the probability that a face had been seen before. For typical faces, this relationship is most evident in the upper half of the confidence scale (consistent with previous research demonstrating that individuals are better at discriminating degrees of “oldness” than degrees of “newness”; e.g., Weber & Brewer, 2004).

The adjusted normalized resolution index (*ANRI*; see Table 3) ranges from 0 (*no discrimination*) to 1 (*perfect discrimination*), measuring the extent to which confidence discriminated old from new faces. In all conditions, the ANRI statistics were significantly greater than zero. Thus, confidence discriminated old from new faces. A 2×2 mixed ANOVA on the within-subjects ANRI statistics (Table 4) revealed results consistent with those for mean confidence. The significant main effect of retention interval showed decreased resolution with increased delay. However, the Distinctiveness × Retention Interval interaction revealed that this

Fig. 1 Calibration curves for distinctive (upper panel) and typical (lower panel) face trials, for confidence group participants in the immediate and delayed testing conditions. Error bars represent standard errors

reduction was significant for distinctive, $t(46) = 5.25, p = .00, f = 0.77$, but not for typical, $t(46) = 1.20, p = .24, f = 0.18$, faces. The significant main effect of distinctiveness indicated superior resolution for distinctive relative to typical stimuli.

These findings support previous research suggesting that confidence ratings index recognition (Mickes, Wixted, & Wais, 2007; Ratcliff & Starns, 2009; Sauer et al., 2008). The ANRI statistics confirm that confidence discriminates studied from unstudied faces, but the level of discrimination varies according to memory quality.

Classification performance: Discrimination and bias

Next, we investigated (a) whether, after the application of a classification criterion, confidence ratings could be used to

Table 3 Mean, *SD*, and 95 % CI adjusted normalized resolution index (ANRI) statistics for distinctive and typical faces for the confidence group in immediate and delayed testing conditions

Distinctiveness & Retention Interval	ANRI		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	95 % CI
Distinctive			
Immediate test	.29	.16	.20–.38
Delayed test	.10	.09	.07–.13
Overall	.16	.15	.12–.21
Typical			
Immediate test	.07	.07	.03–.11
Delayed test	.05	.06	.03–.07
Overall	.06	.06	.04–.07
Overall			
Immediate test	.16	.08	.12–.20
Delayed test	.06	.05	.04–.07
Overall	.09	.08	.07–.11

reliably separate studied from unstudied stimuli; (b) how variations in retention interval and stimulus distinctiveness affected classification performance; and (c) how these effects would compare to the effects on binary response classifications. As per Sauer et al. (2008, Exp. 1), for each participant we determined the confidence criterion that maximized overall accuracy. The criterion was then applied to classify the confidence ratings in each condition as indicative of an old or new stimulus. Stimuli producing confidence ratings equaling or exceeding this criterion were classified as “old,” and those producing ratings falling below the criterion were classified as “new.” Thus, we were able to compute measures of discriminability (or *sensitivity*; d') and criterion placement (c) for each participant and each condition (see Table 5). Note that the criteria were derived from the participants’ data, not designated by the experimenters. We sought to maximize the diagnostic value of participants’ memorial information. Thus, separate criteria were calculated for distinctive ($M = 51.48, SD = 20.68$) and for typical ($M = 54.79, SD = 21.83$) face trials for each participant.³ Using the same process, we classified faces on the basis of recognition ratings (i.e., binary recognition plus retrospective confidence), with separate criteria for distinctive ($M = -15.58, SD = 48.97$) and for typical ($M = -17.50, SD = 47.58$) faces. Descriptive statistics are included in Table 5.

Changes in d' were assessed using a 2 (retention interval: immediate, delayed test) $\times$ 2 (distinctiveness: distinctive, typical) $\times$ 2 (response type: confidence, binary response)

³ The only difference resulting from the use of a single criterion was the emergence of a small ($f = 0.22$) main effect of response type on c . The optimal criteria for confidence-based classifications were more conservative than the participants’ binary response criteria.

Table 4 Mixed ANOVA on ANRI statistics

Effect	<i>df</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Subjects				
Retention interval (R)	1	31.29	0.57	.00
R error	46	(0.01)		
Within Subjects				
Distinctiveness (D)	1	37.94	0.69	.00
D × R	1	14.47	0.42	.00
D error	46	(0.01)		

Values in parentheses represent mean-squared errors

mixed ANOVA (Table 6), with distinctiveness as the within-subjects variable. Large main effects of retention interval

and distinctiveness revealed greater discrimination in the immediate than in the delayed test condition, and for distinctive than for typical stimuli. Importantly, the moderate response type main effect indicated superior classification performance for the confidence condition, as compared to the binary response condition. No interactions involving response type were significant. These findings have three implications. First, consistent with the assumption that confidence ratings and binary responses share an evidential basis, manipulations that affected binary responses also affected confidence-based classifications. Second, relative to binary responses, confidence ratings allowed consistently superior classification performance. Third, given no evidence of a significant effect of retention interval on confidence for typical old stimuli, and no significant interactions

Table 5 Mean, *SD*, and 95 % CI statistics for *d'* and *c* according to retention interval and distinctiveness for classifications based on ecphoric confidence ratings, recognition ratings, and binary responses

Distinctiveness	Response Type								
	Ecphoric Confidence			Recognition			Binary		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	95 % CI	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	95 % CI	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	95 % CI
Immediate									
Distinctive									
<i>d'</i>	1.52	0.49	1.26–1.78	1.39	0.46	1.15–1.63	1.31	0.46	1.07–1.56
<i>c</i>	.31	.57	.01–.61	.21	.22	.09–.32	.21	.19	.11–.31
Typical									
<i>d'</i>	0.93	0.42	0.71–1.16	0.85	0.33	0.68–1.03	0.69	0.45	0.45–0.93
<i>c</i>	.44	.79	–.16 to .73	.09	.52	–.19 to .36	.16	.53	–.12 to .45
Overall									
<i>d'</i>	1.13	0.52	0.85–1.41	1.10	0.26	0.96–1.24	0.98	0.31	0.82–1.15
<i>c</i>	.62	.43	.39–.85	.14	.31	–.03 to .31	.18	.29	.02–.34
Delayed									
Distinctive									
<i>d'</i>	0.96	0.35	0.84–1.09	0.67	0.49	0.49–0.85	0.52	0.59	0.31–0.73
<i>c</i>	.52	.62	.29–.74	.19	.65	–.04 to .43	.31	.40	.17–.46
Typical									
<i>d'</i>	0.68	0.28	0.58–0.79	0.59	0.36	0.46–0.72	0.28	0.40	0.13–0.42
<i>c</i>	.52	.77	.24–.80	.26	.78	–.02 to .54	.45	.46	.28–.62
Overall									
<i>d'</i>	0.76	0.32	0.64–0.87	0.62	0.32	0.51–0.74	0.39	0.39	0.25–0.53
<i>c</i>	.49	.74	.22–.76	.23	.69	–.02 to .47	.37	.37	.24–.51
Overall									
Distinctive									
<i>d'</i>	1.15	0.47	1.01–1.29	0.91	0.58	0.74–1.08	0.78	0.66	0.59–0.98
<i>c</i>	.45	.61	.27–.63	.20	.54	.04–.36	.28	.35	.18–.38
Typical									
<i>d'</i>	0.77	0.35	0.66–0.87	0.68	0.37	0.57–0.79	0.42	0.46	0.28–0.55
<i>c</i>	.44	.79	.21–.67	.20	.70	–.01 to .41	.35	.50	.21–.50
Overall									
<i>d'</i>	0.88	0.43	0.75–1.01	0.78	0.38	0.67–0.89	0.59	0.46	0.45–0.72
<i>c</i>	.53	.66	.34–.73	.20	.59	.03–.37	.31	.35	.21–.41

Table 6 Mixed ANOVAs on d' and c for classifications based on ecphoric confidence ratings and binary responses

Measure and Effect	df	F	f	p
d'				
Between Subjects				
Response type (Resp) ^a	1	20.65	0.36	.00
Retention interval (R)	1	49.67	0.56	.00
Resp $\times$ R	1	1.99	0.11	.16
Error	92	(0.22)		
Within Subjects				
Distinctiveness (D)	1	50.85	0.48	.00
D $\times$ R	1	7.91	0.19	.01
D $\times$ Resp	1	0.00	0.00	.98
D $\times$ R $\times$ Resp	1	0.08	0.02	.78
D error	92	(0.16)		
c				
Between Subjects				
Resp	1	1.56	0.10	.22
R	1	4.37	0.17	.04
Resp $\times$ R	1	0.02	0.01	.89
Error	92	(0.42)		
Within Subjects				
D	1	0.04	0.01	.84
D $\times$ R	1	0.49	0.04	.49
D $\times$ Resp	1	0.11	0.02	.75
D $\times$ R $\times$ Resp	1	0.27	0.03	.60
D error	92	(0.25)		

Values in parentheses represent mean-squared errors.

^a Participants provided either binary responses or confidence ratings

with response type on d' , we have no reason to doubt that the superiority of the confidence ratings (evidenced by the significant main effect) is robust to these factors that impair discriminability.

An identical $2 \times 2 \times 2$ mixed ANOVA on c (Table 6) revealed a small but significant main effect of retention interval; after a delay, participants (and the classification algorithm) were less likely to classify a test stimulus as “old” (see note 2). Together with the discriminability results, this finding precluded the possibility that improved performance using the confidence procedure, as compared with the binary response condition, simply reflected a more or less conservative classification method. The effects of retention interval on classification criteria placement did not interact with response type.

To test whether the improved classification demonstrated above reflected a more fine-grained dependent measure, we ran 2 (response type: binary, recognition rating) $\times 2$ (retention interval: immediate, delayed test) $\times 2$ (distinctiveness: distinctive, typical) mixed ANOVAs on d' and c , with retention interval as the between-subjects variable (Table 7). A

Table 7 Mixed ANOVAs on d' and c for classifications based on binary responses and recognition ratings

Measure and Effect	df	F	f	p
d'				
Between Subjects				
Retention interval (R)	1	33.31	0.58	.00
Error	46	(0.38)		
Within Subjects				
Response type (Resp)	1	20.98	0.18	.00
Resp $\times$ R	1	2.25	0.06	.14
Resp error	46	(0.06)		
Distinctiveness (D)	1	16.24	0.39	.00
D $\times$ R	1	5.18	0.22	.03
D $\times$ Resp	1	6.01	0.07	.02
D $\times$ R $\times$ Resp	1	0.67	0.02	.42
D error	46	(0.36)		
c				
Between Subjects				
R	1	1.15	0.12	.29
Error	46	(0.70)		
Within Subjects				
Resp	1	1.79	0.09	.19
Resp $\times$ R	1	0.60	0.05	.44
Resp error	46	(0.23)		
D	1	0.01	0.01	.93
D $\times$ R	1	1.71	0.08	.20
D $\times$ Resp	1	4.65	0.03	.04
D $\times$ R $\times$ Resp	1	0.01	0.01	.98
D error	46	(0.01)		

Values in parentheses represent mean-squared errors

significant main effect of response type on d' indicated superior discrimination using recognition ratings. Thus, a more fine-grained scale improved discrimination. The Response Type $\times$ Distinctiveness interaction revealed a moderate effect for typical faces, but only a small effect for distinctive faces. The small Response Type $\times$ Distinctiveness interaction on c indicated a more conservative criterion for binary response classifications (cf. classification based on recognition ratings) for typical, but not for distinctive, faces.

However, 2 (response type: confidence, recognition rating) $\times 2$ (retention interval: immediate, delayed test) $\times 2$ (distinctiveness: distinctive, typical) mixed ANOVAs, with distinctiveness as the within-subjects variable, on d' and c (Table 8) revealed a significant main effect of response type on d' —indicating superior discrimination using ecphoric confidence ratings—with no significant interactions involving response type. No significant effects on c were observed. Thus, the superiority of ecphoric confidence ratings over recognition responses persists for fine-grained recognition responses.

Table 8 Mixed ANOVAs on d' and c for classifications based on ecphoric confidence ratings and recognition ratings

Measure and Effect	df	F	f	p
d'				
Between Subjects				
Response type (Resp)	1	5.87	0.18	.02
Retention interval (R)	1	52.53	0.54	.00
Resp $\times$ R	1	0.49	0.05	.48
Error	92	(0.16)		
Within Subjects				
Distinctiveness (D)	1	39.33	0.45	.00
D $\times$ R	1	10.51	0.23	.00
D $\times$ Resp	1	1.17	0.08	.28
D $\times$ R $\times$ Resp	1	0.41	0.05	.53
D error	92	(0.15)		
c				
Between Subjects				
Resp	1	3.27	0.16	.07
R	1	1.52	0.11	.22
Resp $\times$ R	1	0.33	0.05	.57
Error	92	(0.65)		
Within Subjects				
D	1	0.06	0.01	.81
D $\times$ R	1	0.48	0.04	.49
D $\times$ Resp	1	0.01	0.01	.91
D $\times$ R $\times$ Resp	1	0.27	0.03	.61
D error	92	(0.25)		

Values in parentheses represent mean-squared errors

Summary

First, ecphoric confidence ratings were significantly higher for old than for new faces. This difference was greater in conditions in which the evidential basis for confidence was stronger. These findings suggest that confidence indexes ecphory. However, confidence for old typical faces showed no decline after a delay. Second, calibration curves and ANRI statistics demonstrated that confidence discriminated previously seen from unseen faces in all conditions. Finally, analyses of classification performance indicated superior discrimination for the confidence procedure in all comparisons, with no evidence of a difference in response bias (or in the effects of our manipulations on response bias) between the confidence and binary response conditions, or between ecphoric confidence and recognition ratings.

Discussion

Our findings generally support a memorial basis for ecphoric confidence. Across conditions, mean confidence

was higher for old than for new faces. Furthermore, conditions producing stronger memories generally led to increased confidence for old faces and increased resolution. Confidence ratings for old typical faces showed no effect of delayed testing. Thus, ecphoric confidence may sometimes be insensitive to changes in memory quality. However, analyses of d' demonstrated that ecphoric confidence ratings were more robust than binary responses to factors that impaired discriminability. This advantage was not reduced by increasing delay.

Using more fine-grained measures improves discrimination. However, classification performance using ecphoric confidence ratings exceeded performance using recognition ratings (potentially because recognition ratings incorporate retrospective confidence, which is vulnerable to nondiagnostic influences). Thus, the superiority of the confidence procedure over binary responses cannot be accounted for by the grain size of the response scale. This advantage suggests a more sensitive index of ecphory.

Encouragingly, although retention interval and distinctiveness affected ecphoric confidence and resolution, calibration curves and ANRI statistics indicated (a) monotonic, positive relationships between ecphoric confidence and the probability that a face had previously been viewed, and (b) that ecphoric confidence discriminated seen from unseen faces in all conditions. Furthermore, after applying the classification criteria, discriminability using the confidence procedure exceeded that for binary responses in all conditions. This result was not attributable to differences in response bias. These findings have significant theoretical and, potentially, practical implications.

Manipulating memory strength exerted similar effects on performance for both classification procedures. This supports previous research demonstrating that ecphoric confidence ratings (a) index the evidential basis for recognition decisions and (b) can reliably discriminate between complex stimuli that participants do and do not recognize (Koriat, 1993; Mickes et al., 2007; Sauer et al., 2008). The consistently superior classification performance using the confidence procedure (and the improvements associated with using recognition ratings) indicates that participants providing binary responses are not making optimal use of the evidence available to them. Thus, procedures that do not require overt decisions may avoid errors encountered when participants control the placement of their decision criteria.

Suboptimal placement of decision criteria can have serious consequences in applied settings. This is particularly pertinent for the eyewitness identification task, which presents numerous barriers to optimum criterion placement. When viewing a lineup, witnesses often assume that they are *expected* to pick someone (see Wells & Olson, 2003, for a review). Combined with stimulus ambiguity, this perceived pressure to pick may lead witnesses to lower their decision criteria, increasing the risk of false identifications (Wells,

1993). Alternatively, witnesses aware of the potential consequences of false identifications may set overly conservative criteria, and thus fail to identify a culprit who is present in the lineup. When testing witness memory, probes should allow access to the information that best discriminates studied from unstudied stimuli. The present results demonstrate that binary recognition decisions are not the best test for this purpose. Procedures capable of ameliorating the effects of criterion placement and/or of providing a more sensitive index of recognition would be of considerable practical value. Sauer et al. (2008) demonstrated that ecphoric confidence ratings discriminate target from foil stimuli in lineup tasks. However, the treatment of this type of evidence by courts will require further investigation.

In sum, ecphoric confidence ratings discriminate studied from unstudied faces and can be used to reliably classify faces as previously studied or unstudied, even when memory quality is reduced. The similar effects of our memory manipulations on confidence-based and binary response classification suggest that confidence accesses the evidential basis for recognition memory decisions. Finally, the improved performance associated with the confidence procedure, as compared to the binary response group, suggests that the confidence procedure may attenuate nonmemorial influences on recognition memory decisions and allow for more direct access to the evidence upon which recognition decisions are based.

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