



## “Can People Really Feel Your Stares?” - What We Learned

I learned a lot from our project, for instance, I learned a lot of the biological and psychological factors that correspond with how we recognize faces and how our brains correspond to seeing them. Biologically, I learned of some of the different parts of the brain like the *amygdala* (which controls your emotional responses, memory and hormonal secretions among other things) and the *temporal lobe* (which shares facial recognition duties with your *occipital lobe*, *fusiform area*, *superior temporal sulcus*, and *interior cortex* among other parts). I also learned a lot about how our vision works and things such as how the shape of our eye sockets and skulls effect how our peripheral vision works, and how our field of vision weakens around the edges since we dont pay as much attention on the edge of our vision as we do on the center. Psychologically, I learned that we feel safer in groups and that females are more attentive than males. I also learned of *unconscious facial recognition* and how the human mind likes to pay attention to shapes, patterns and colors.

- Derek Mullin

From this project i learned quite a bit about face recognition that i didn't know before. Although your brain cannot makeup faces, it is pretty quick to recognize a face you have already seen before. We came up with a question we thought would hit home for everybody, “can people really feel your stares?”

I'm sure at some point in your life you have felt like you were being watched by somebody. So we did some research and found that the reason we feel like we are being watched is simply just down to a movement you have probably made to draw someone's attention to you or an act of paranoia. We also found it was a survival instinct left over from evolution which was also our hypothesis that was proven to be right. My partner and I sat in the cafeteria one lunch and basically stared at groups and people to see if they noticed or "feel" our stares. We came to the conclusion that most people who noticed were either female, or in a group of more than one other person. We thought females would notice easier because they are more worried about what others think so they were most likely already feeling judged in some ways and looking for somebody looking at them. If it was a group it was likely someone would notice and inform the person we were staring at.