

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2004 PROJECT SUMMARY

**Project Number** 

**S0320** 

Name(s)

Michael Sinanian; Alex Yerevanian

## **Project Title**

# The Recognition of Facial Expressions among Varying Adolescent Populations

#### Abstract

In this experiment, our objective was to determine how different adolescent populations recognize specific emotions at varying intensities.

## Methods/Materials

**Objectives/Goals** 

To test this, we used the entire high school body of AGBU Demirdjian high school, consisting of about 460 students, and administered them a test in which they would anonymously record specific demographic data (age, gender, and approximate GPA) and their interpretations of certain facial expressions. When we gathered the data, we made correlations for the age and GPA and a chi square analysis for the gender.

#### Results

The data showed that 1. Age is not a good predictor for more accurate recognition of facial expression. 2. Females are able to more accurately recognize certain emotions (such as fear) as opposed to males. 3. There is no consistent correlation between GPA and accurate recognition of facial expressions.

#### **Conclusions/Discussion**

This can be attributed to certain evolutionary or even neurological reasons. Further testing using a different test group and perhaps more sophisticated equipment would be required to test and pinpoint these reasons.

#### **Summary Statement**

This experiment was to determine how different adolescent populations recognize specific emotions at varying intensities, and how differences in the performance of these populations can be attributed to certain factors.

#### **Help Received**

Mother helped create board, Partner's cousin conducted statistical analysis, Brother helped type introduction