



Perceptions of Sound-Based Cues in Real Time



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Introduction

Sociolinguistic research have examined the production of /s/ and has found that the frontness of the /s/ is associated with femininity and the retraction of the /s/ is associated with masculinity. (Podesva & VanHofwegen, 2014).

The goal of this study is to see how people's reaction and assessments of sound-based cues tell us about how fast they take social qualities into their decision-making process.

Method

Participants

- Adults (N=24) were recruited from the floor of the museum.

Procedures

- Participants were asked to arrange photos into categories based on perceived similarity.
- After arrangement participants viewed those same arrangements while listening to a series of audio clips
- Participants were asked to click on the face they thought matched each clip.

Results

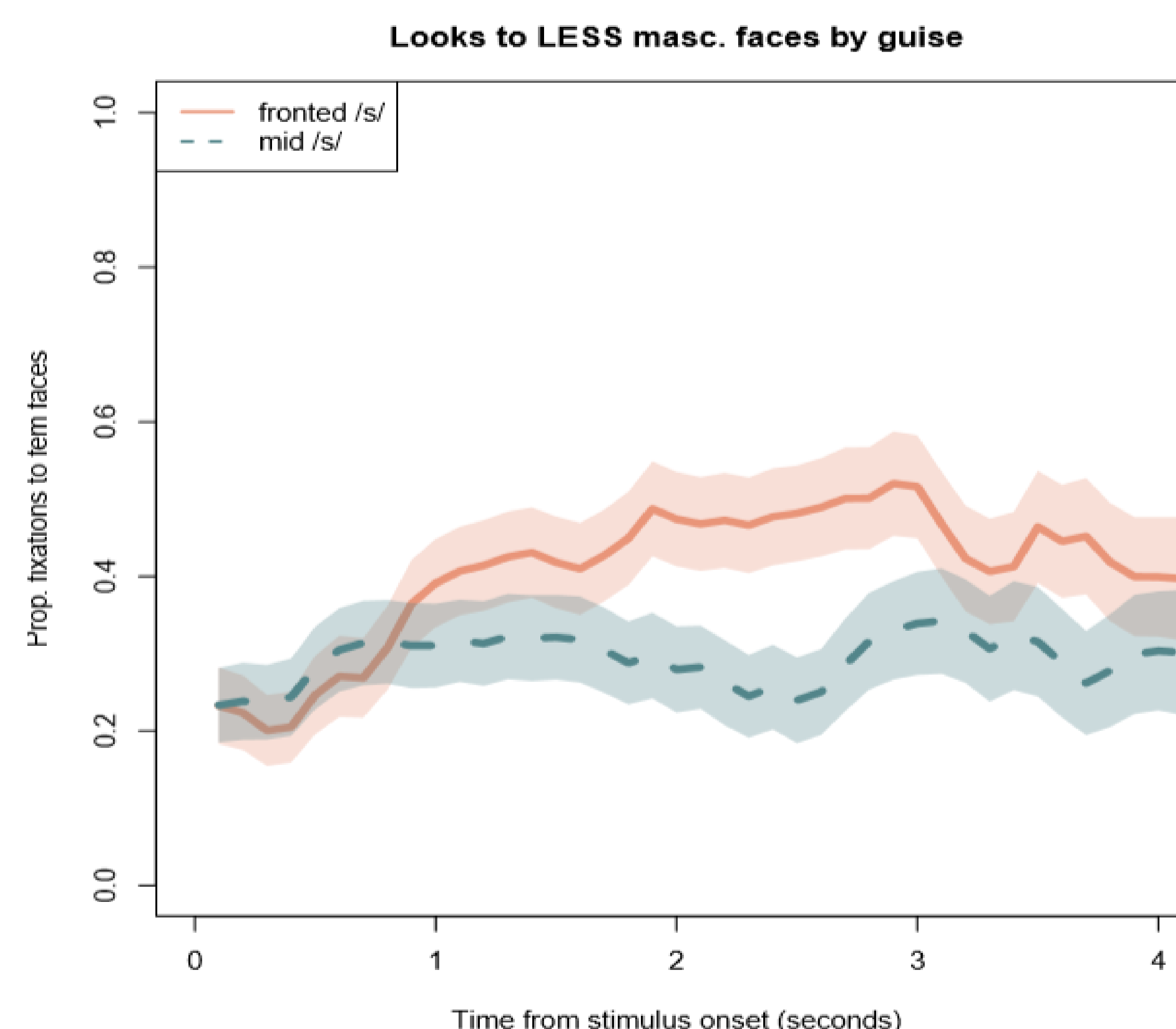


Figure 1: Looks to faces perceived as less masculine.

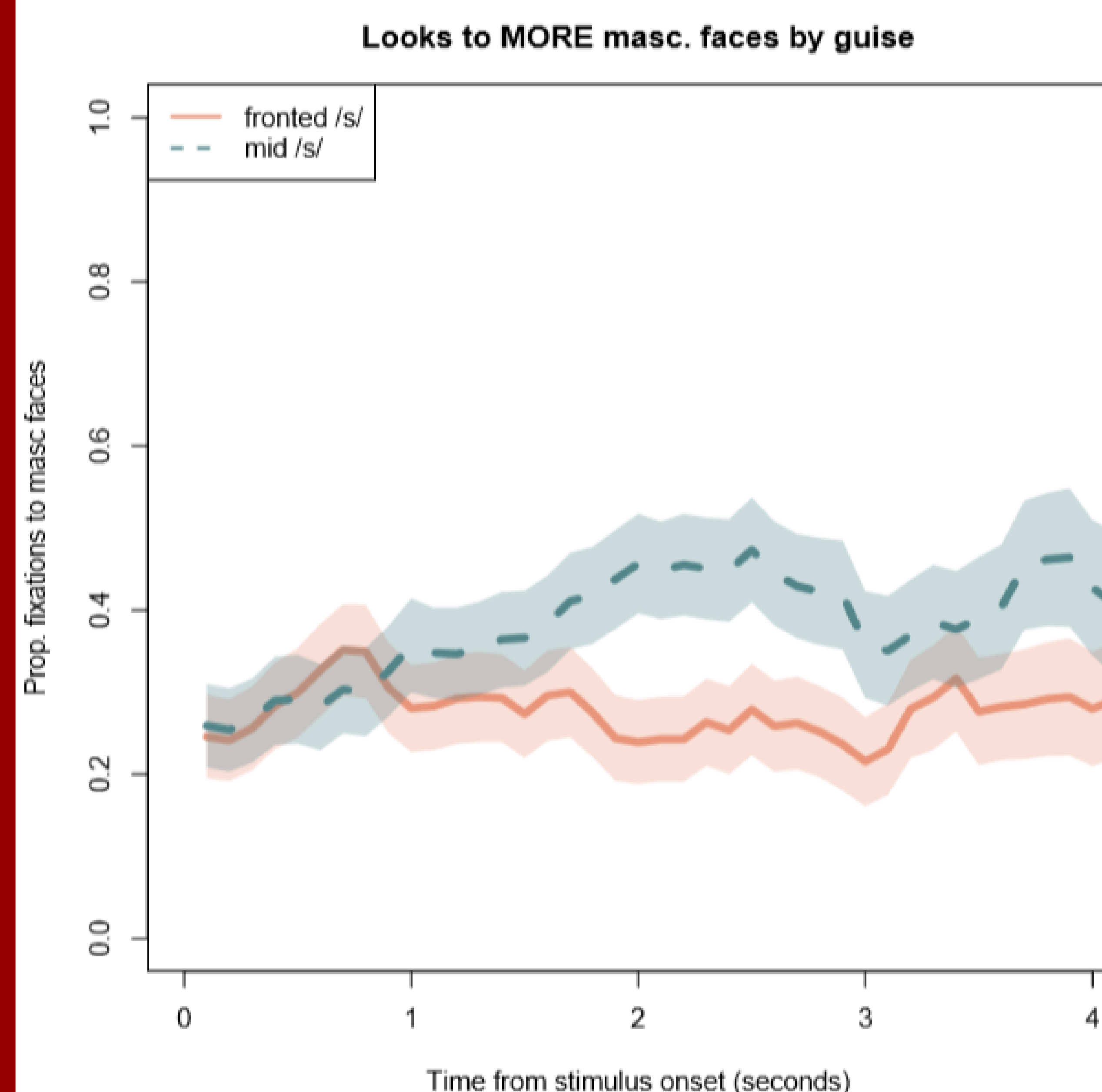


Figure 2: Looks to faces perceived as more masculine.

Discussion

- In this study we examined how people use language to form their social worlds.
- The results show that people behave similarly when the visual target is of the speaker as when the visual target is of a reference. This can be helpful for future sociolinguistic research.
- The results also show us that people are quick at making the decision to match the voices based on social qualities.
- The eye tracking method is something that helped us see how they came to that decision in real time.
- We were able to examine people's reactions and the assessments of sound-based cues while testing the methods simultaneously.

Reference

Podesva, R. J., & VanHofwegen, J. (2014) How Conservatism and Normative Gender Constrain Variation in Inland California : The Case of /s/, *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*, 20(2), 127-137.

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