

The Stability of Infant Preferences for Socially Based Attention: Observational, Experimental and Longitudinal Analyses

Background

The current study aims to explore the stability of social preferences across time and context using mother-infant interactions, experimental tasks and parental reports.

Participants

39 mothers were recruited during the last trimester of pregnancy for the **First Steps Longitudinal Study**. All participants were singletons and born at term

Measures

Infant Engagement at 2 Months

Adapted Bakeman & Adamson (1984)

Codes of Infant Engagement

The original Bakeman & Adamson codes quantify the engagement of infants during free-play interactions. An adaptation of the original codes allowed an examination for Onlooking the Person, Onlooking the Mother's Chosen Object (scaffolded attention) and Onlooking an Alternative Object (unscaffolded) before the onset of prehension skills.



Proximal Gaze Following (PGF) at 5 Months

The Perra & Gattis Proximal Gaze Following (2010)^a task was employed to assess the infant's propensity to follow and experimenter's gaze



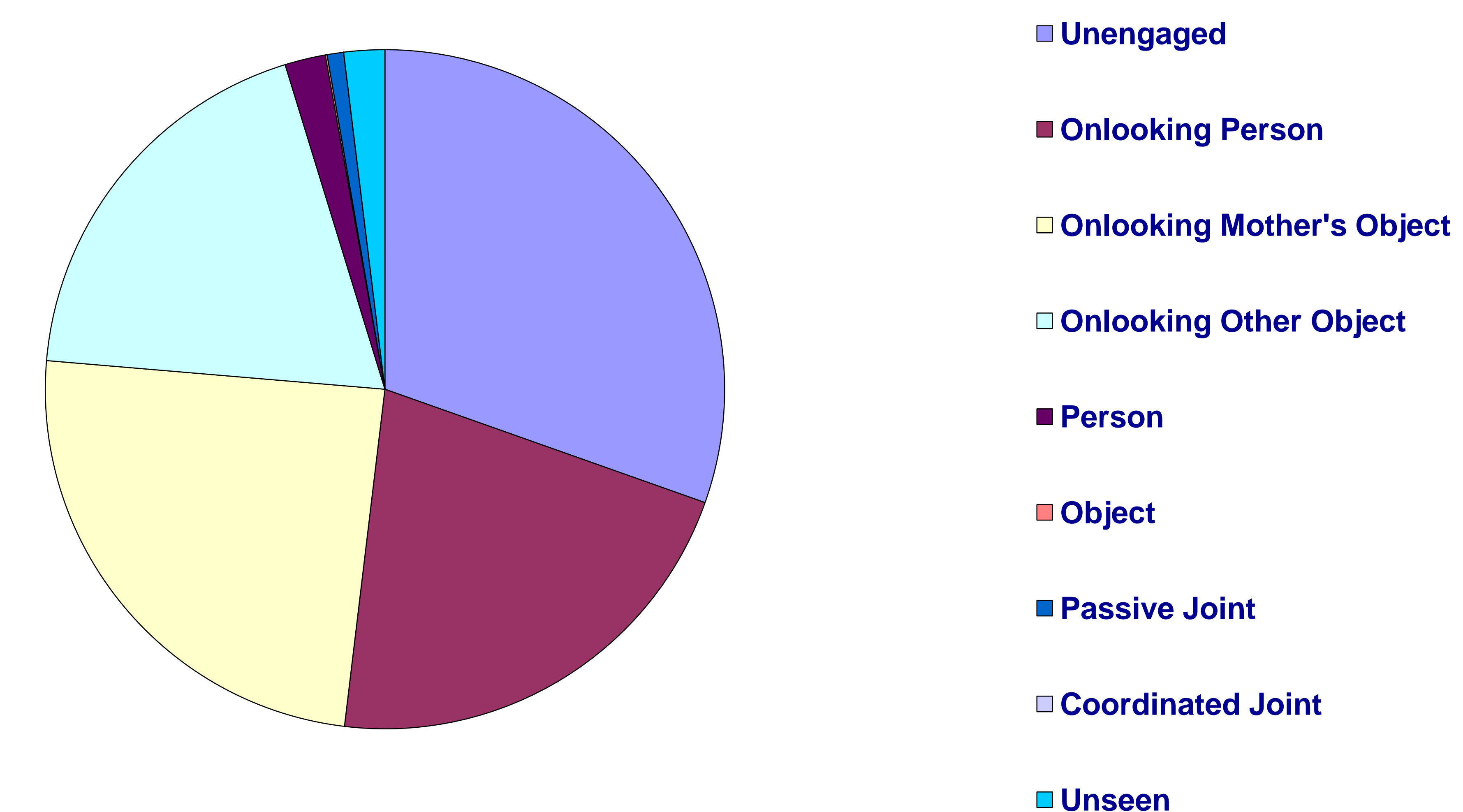
Conclusions

The results suggest that:

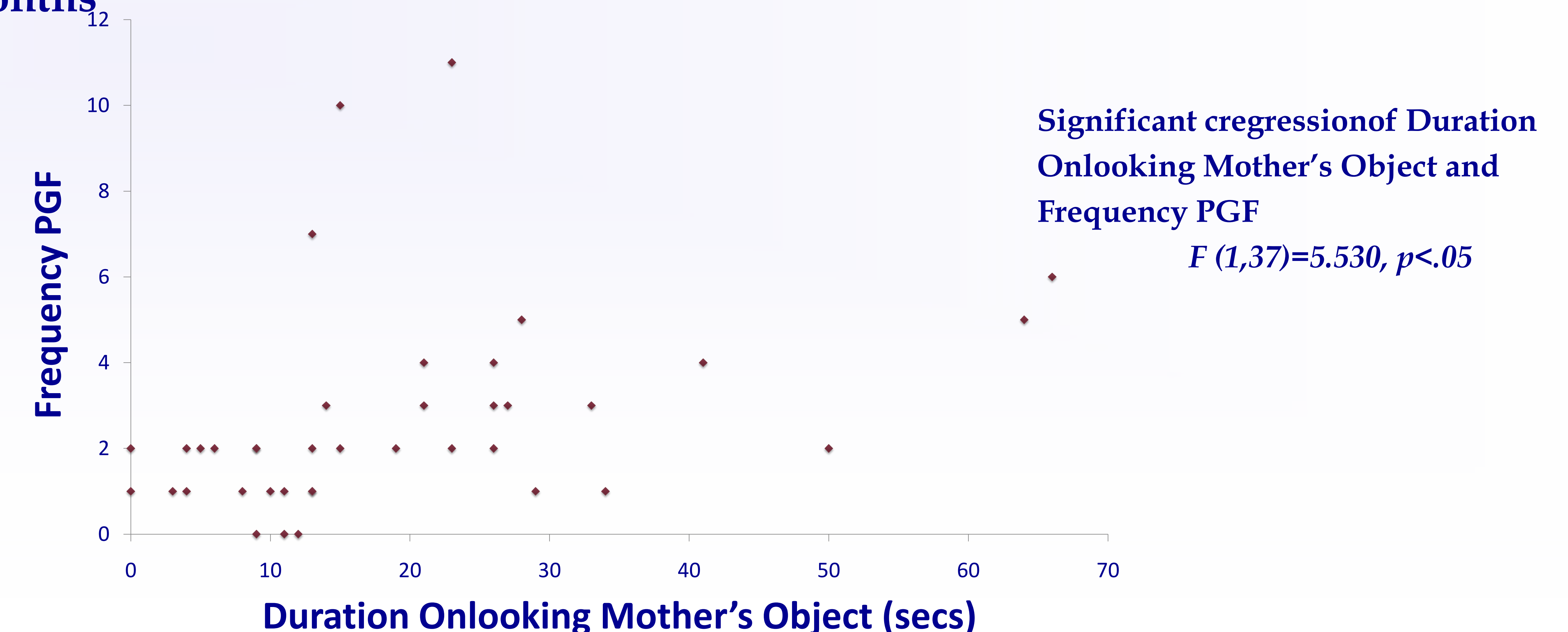
- The social preferences of infants are both stable across time and context, supporting infant preference as a predictor for orienting responses.

Results

Time Spent in Engagement States During Interactions at 2 Months



Time Spent in Social Attention at 2 Months Predicts Proximal Gaze Following at 5 Months



^aPerra, O., & Gattis, M.(2010). The control of social attention from 1 to 4 months. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 28, 4, 891-908