

Face and Voice Recognition Lab, University of Greenwich

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Super-Recognition Resources Guide

Our super-recognition research programme started in April 2011, when Davis's research team at the University of Greenwich tested about 20 Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) officers who were making a substantial proportion of all identifications of suspects from CCTV images across London. Four months later the same officers identified over 600 eventually convicted London rioters (2011). From 2014-2017, the University of Greenwich and the MPS were partners in the 18-strong European Commission-funded €11 million LASIE project (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/607480/reporting>), creating cognitive tests to identify super-recognisers, some of whom became the first members of the New Scotland Yard Super-Recognisers Unit, the first dedicated unit in the world.

The programme has rapidly expanded since 2020, with research consultancy contracts signed between the University of Greenwich and more than 30 international police forces and businesses. Prof. Josh P Davis is also regularly interviewed on TV and the written news media. Such is the interest in super-recognition, that over 7,000,000 members of the public from more than 170 countries have taken Davis's fun Could you be a Super-Recogniser Test, while 50,000 have signed up to receive regular research invites. This guide provides a brief snapshot of the work of Davis's lab, and the success stories associated with those tested as part of the research programme.

Face and Voice Recognition Lab Websites and key information

[Face and Voice Recognition Lab \(AKA Super-Recognisers\) Research Website](#)

[Face and Voice Recognition Lab Research Volunteer Pool \(description\)](#)

[Association of Super-recognisers: Professional Association](#)

[Valentine & Davis \(2015\): Forensic Facial Identification: Theory and Practice of Identification from Eyewitnesses, Composites and CCTV. Book - preface by Elizabeth Loftus \(Amazon\)](#)

TV and visual media (more here: [TV and Media](#))

[2022: In Your Face \(CBC\): Canadian Broadcasting Corporation TV Documentary](#)

[2021: Crimewatch Live \(BBC1\): Live studio interview with Davis discussing super-face- and super-voice-recognisers with West Midlands Police super-recogniser, Andy Pope \(Password = Crimewatch\)](#)

[2018: Fantastico \(Brazilian TV\): Visit to the University of Greenwich Face and Voice Recognition Lab](#)

[2018 BBC World News: Live studio interview with Davis and ex-New Scotland Yard Super-Recogniser's Unit pioneer, Kenny Long](#)

[2013: This Morning \(ITV\): Live studio interview led by Philip Schofield and Holly Willoughby with Davis and retired Detective Chief Inspector Mick Neville \(then Head of the New Scotland Yard Super-](#)

[Recogniser's Unit, now CEO Super-Recognisers International](#)

Written media articles featuring Davis and super-recognisers

[2021: Washington Post \(USA\): Face and Voice Recognition Lab](#)

[2021: Die Spiegel \(Germany\): German police force testing procedures](#)

[2020: Vice: Feature on Kelly Hearsey \(civilian super-recogniser\) who has assisted with police investigations and worked in various security roles due to her skills](#)

[2018: Wired: Super-recognisers and the Russian assassin's Novichok poison murder case](#)

[2016: New Yorker: Detailed highly informative detailed easy to read description of the New Scotland Yard Super-Recognisers Unit](#)

[2015: Daily Mail: Article that encouraged more than one million participants to take Davis's "Could you be a Super-Recogniser Test" in less than a month](#)

[2015: BBC Future: Article describing the early work of London's Metropolitan Police super-recognisers prior to the creation of the New Scotland Yard Super-Recogniser's Unit](#)

Podcasts

[2022: American Psychological Association: Podcast with Davis and super-recogniser, Kelly Hersey](#)

[2022: Frankfurter Allgemeine \(Germany\): Podcast on Frankfurt super-recognisers with Davis](#)

[2020: Department of Homeland Defense Journal \(USA\): Two-part Podcast on super-recognisers with Davis and Robertson \(Strathclyde University\).](#)

Key review articles (with Davis as author)

[Jenkins et al. \(2021\): Summary article in the Conversation by PhD student, Ryan Jenkins, on relationship between voice and face recognition \(free open access\)](#)

[Davis \(2020\): Detailed chapter describing background to Davis's super-recognition research and history of work conducted by his lab at the University of Greenwich \(free pre-print\)](#)

[Davis \(2019\): Brief article in the BPS Cognitive Bulletin with a focus on the first 6 million participants to take the Could you be a Super-Recogniser Test \(free pre-print\)](#)

[Davis & Valentine \(2015\). Forensic Facial identification: Chapter in authors' edited book, describing difficulties associated with reliable identification from visual images \(free pre-print\)](#)

[Davis et al. \(2013\): Psychologist article describing first research on police super-recognisers, and their identification successes after the London Riots \(2011\) \(free open access\)](#)

Key academic peer-reviewed journal articles (with Davis as author) ([more here](#))

[Noyes et al. \(2021\): Royal Society: Open Science: One of the first studies examining the impact of face masks on face recognition and facial emotion recognition \(free open access\)](#)

[Jenkins et al. \(2021\): Applied Cognitive Psychology: Study finding moderate correlations between scores on tests of face and voice recognition \(free pre-print\)](#)

[Correll et al. \(2021\): Journal of Experimental Social Psychology: Study led by US academics examining the impact of the other-ethnicity effect on super-recogniser's face recognition \(free open access\)](#)

[Belanova et al. \(2018\): Cortex: First published paper to demonstrate different levels of brain activity in super-recognisers in comparison to controls by use of EEG \(free pre-print\)](#)

[Davis et al. \(2016\): Applied Cognitive Psychology: Study describing first research programme from 2011-2014 examining Metropolitan Police Service super-recognisers from prior to the London Riots \(2011\) \(free pre-print\)](#)

Examples of different criminal justice system research contexts by Davis's students

[Mcintosh & Davis \(2021\): Journal of Interpersonal Violence: Initiated shortly after accusations were made public, this study examined the impact of the Casting Couch trope on attitudes towards sexual assault and rape \(free open access\)](#)

[Osborn et al. \(2021\): Journal of Interpersonal Violence: 25 years after the first marital rape conviction in the UK, this study examined whether a belief that this is not 'real rape' prevail \(free open access\)](#)

Research volunteering and opportunities to take tests for free

You may be interested in becoming a member of the Greenwich Face and Voice Recognition Lab research participant volunteer pool. There is no charge for taking these tests. At the time of writing (29.09.2023), the list of available tests is as follows:

Could you be a Super-Recogniser Test

Cambridge (male) Face Memory Test: Extended

Glasgow Face Matching Test: Version 1

Kent Face Matching Test

Short-term Face Memory Test (30-60)

Cambridge Cars Memory Test

Cambridge (female) Face Memory Test: Extended

Glasgow Face Matching Test: Version 2

To be added in the next few weeks

Glasgow Voice Memory Test

Bangor Voice Matching Test

Greenwich Voice Recognition Test

To join the volunteer pool, you will please need to have taken the following three tests first: -

1. Cambridge (male) Face Memory Test: Extended,
2. Glasgow Face Matching Test: Version 1,
3. Short-term Face Memory Test (30-60).

And it would be helpful (but not necessary) to have taken this test:

Could you be a Super-Recogniser Test

We prefer to retain first-attempt scores in our records, so if you have not taken any of these tests, this link is probably the easiest for accessing the three tests:

<http://tinyurl.com/TheThreeTestsDistributionLink> , and this link for the Could you be a Super-Recogniser Test: <http://tinyurl.com/CouldYouBeASuperRecogniserN5>

If you have taken our tests and have been provided with one of our anonymous codes (e.g., AXXXXXXXX, BXXXXXXXX, TXXXXXXXX), all tests for volunteers can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/DBCAuthDistributionLink>

If you have taken some or all of these tests, but do not remember your anonymous code, please e-mail us at super-recognisers@greenwich.ac.uk and ideally provide as much of the following information as possible:

List of questions:

1. What date (even if approximately) did you take the test on?
2. What personal code did you use?
3. Do you remember any names at all of the tests that you took (e.g. Glasgow, Short-Term?)

Taking the tests for Super-Recognisers International

If you wish to take the Super-Recogniser International tests (in English only), they are free for everyone to attempt. These are mostly the same as those used in policing projects. However, Super-Recognisers International will charge a fee to receive your results. We receive no other direct funding to maintain the tests for members of the public on the internet. Laboratory staff work an average of about 30-hours per week on the test system for members of the public and volunteers and the tests for Super-Recognisers International.

More information about these tests for individuals can be found [here](#).

Organisations who would like their staff to take these tests should contact Super-Recognisers International directly. <https://superrecognisersinternational.com/>