



## Face and Voice Recognition (AKA Super-Recognisers) Lab

**Principal Researcher: Professor Josh P. Davis (Professor of Applied Psychology)**

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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](#), 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 \(AKA Super-Recognisers\) www.superrecognisers.com](#)

[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](#))**

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*: 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): Part 1

2020: *Department of Homeland Defense Journal* (USA): Two-part Podcast on super-recognisers with Davis and Robertson (Strathclyde University): Part 2

### **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 super-recognition research and history of police tests conducted by University of Greenwich lab (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 on 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 alternative 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 UK's first marital rape conviction. Examining whether beliefs that this is not 'real rape' prevail (free open access)