

The intention of this study was to discover whether better memory was found for remember-cued faces than forget-cued faces (in which a directed forgetting effect would be present), and whether group membership and emotion of the faces presented impacted the degree of directed forgetting. Positive emotions have been found to facilitate cognitive tasks, while negative emotions have been reported to have the opposite effect. Meanwhile, in-group faces tend to be devoted more processing resources and expertise. Taking these findings into account, it was hypothesized that the strongest directed forgetting effects would be found for happy, in-group faces, and the weakest directed forgetting effects would be present for sad, out-group faces. Participants (N= 53) were presented with 36 in-group (White) or out-group (Asian) faces portraying happy, sad, and neutral expressions. At study, half of the faces seen were followed by the instruction to forget the face, and half of the faces were followed by the instruction to remember the face. At test, participants were shown the 36 faces that they had seen before in addition to 36 new faces. They were asked to identify whether the face was "new" or "old", and if they identified it as an old face, they then had to report whether it was remember-cued or forget-cued at study. Results indicated that the group membership of the faces presented had no significant main effect on directed forgetting, and neither did emotion. However, instructional cue had a marginal effect, with better memory shown for remember- than forget-cued faces. Also, when participants falsely identified a new face as an old face, they were more likely to state that this new face was forget-cued. Hence, poorer memory was found for which forget-cued faces participants had seen, causing confusion about whether a face with no memory trace was a new face, or a forget-cued old face. A marginal interaction emerged between emotion on the face and whether the face was an in- or out-group face. The most errors were made for happy, Asian faces, and the least errors were made for happy, White faces. Altogether, effect sizes were

minimal for the results reported. Thus, we can speculate that effect of emotion on directed forgetting and facial recall accuracy is impacted by the group membership of the face, and can also hypothesize that race may be more salient than emotion when processing faces. Ultimately, due to very small effect sizes, no conclusive evidence was found for our hypotheses.