

# On neural integration of faces and semantics

Citation for published version (APA):

van den Hurk, J. (2013). *On neural integration of faces and semantics*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20130419jh>

## Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2013

## DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20130419jh](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20130419jh)

## Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

## Please check the document version of this publication:

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## Propositions of the doctoral dissertation

### **On neural integration of faces and semantics**

1. The neural concept of person identity goes beyond facial appearance and inherently relies on an association between face and underlying semantics.
2. The Fusiform Face Area (FFA) has access to semantic information about a person, even when no face is visually present.
3. Both anatomically and functionally, FFA consists of (at least) two distinct sub clusters.
4. The association of faces and semantics relies upon a cortical network consisting of, among others, the fusiform face regions, anterior inferior temporal cortex, hippocampus and precuneus.
5. By increasing the imaging resolution, regions with module-like properties can potentially be divided in sub regions, which in turn can lead to a better understanding of their exact functional properties.
6. Investigating the influence of semantics on visual processing is of crucial importance if we are to understand the way the brain gives meaning to the world.
7. From a cognitive perspective, semantic identity does not exist in isolation, but rather comprises a complex visuo-semantic identity representation.
8. Once the connection between a face and semantics is resilient, you found a friend.
9. No man's knowledge can go beyond his experience. – *J. Locke*
10. Everybody does have a book in them, but in most cases that's where it should stay. – *C. Hitchens*

Job van den Hurk  
Maastricht, 19 April 2013