

Introduction

The other-race effect (ORE) is demonstrated by more efficient processing of faces of one's own race than faces of another race¹

The ORE typically develops by 9 months of age¹

Exposure to diverse racial groups may decrease the strength of the ORE²

The ORE can help researchers increase their understanding of the formation of in- and out-groups in childhood and the development of racial prejudice

Few research studies have been conducted to determine if multiracial infants show a similar ORE to monoracial infants³

Hypothesis

Multiracial infants will not show the ORE based on expected increased exposure to multiple racial groups. Monoracial counterparts are expected to demonstrate typical patterns of the ORE.

Methods

Participants: 232 9- to 12-month-olds in the United States participated on the platform Children Helping Science⁴

Procedure: Parents were asked to place the infant on their lap and close their eyes/look away from the screen while the infant completed the study

- Infants completed the study protocol with sets of own- and other-race faces
 - Familiarization phase: 30 s of exposure to a single face
 - Visual-paired comparison (VPC) phase: 10 s of exposure to the side-by-side presentations of the familiar and a novel same-race face
- Videos were coded by trained research assistants for looking during stimulus presentations

Familiarization



VPC



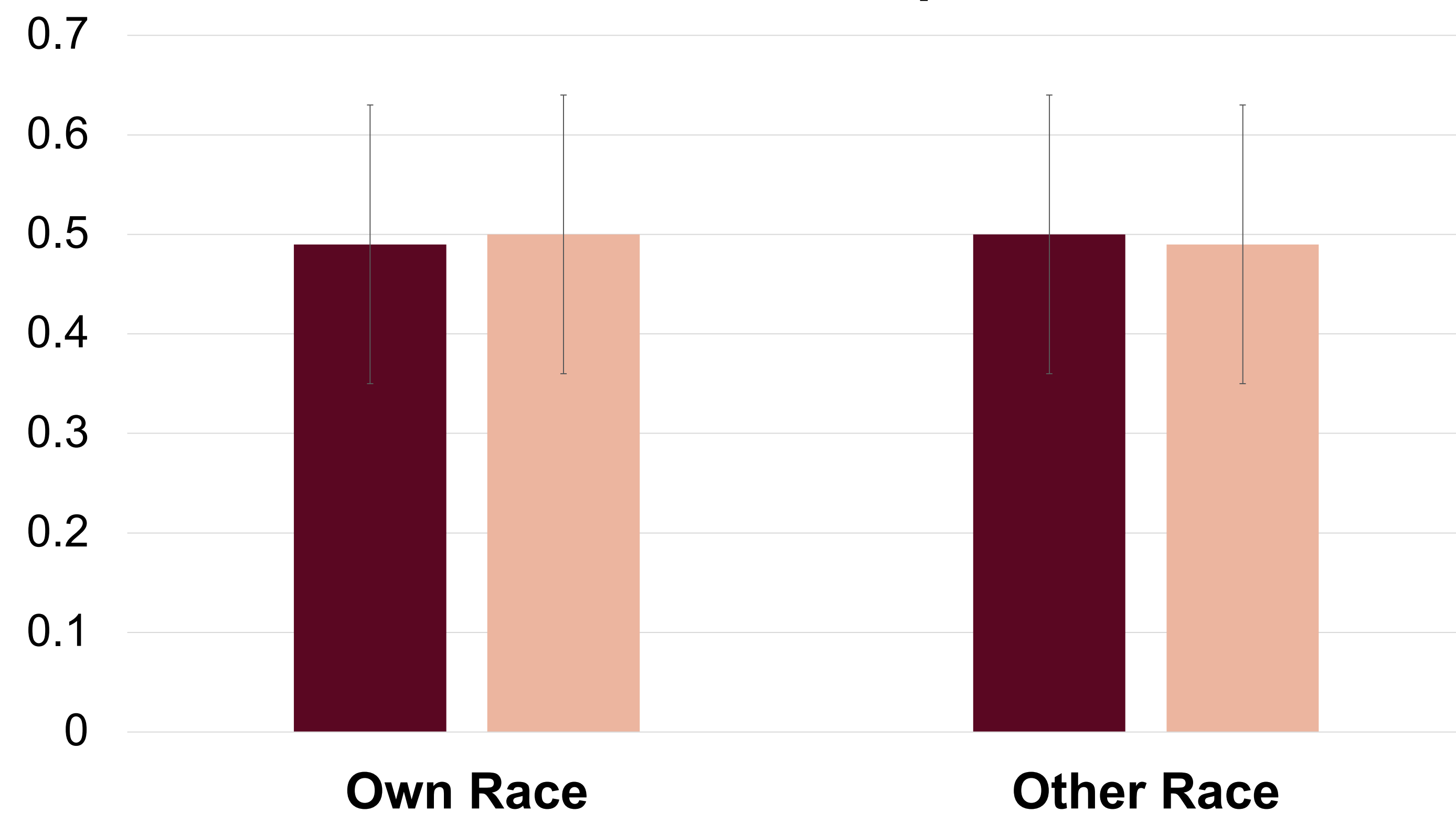
Familiar

Novel

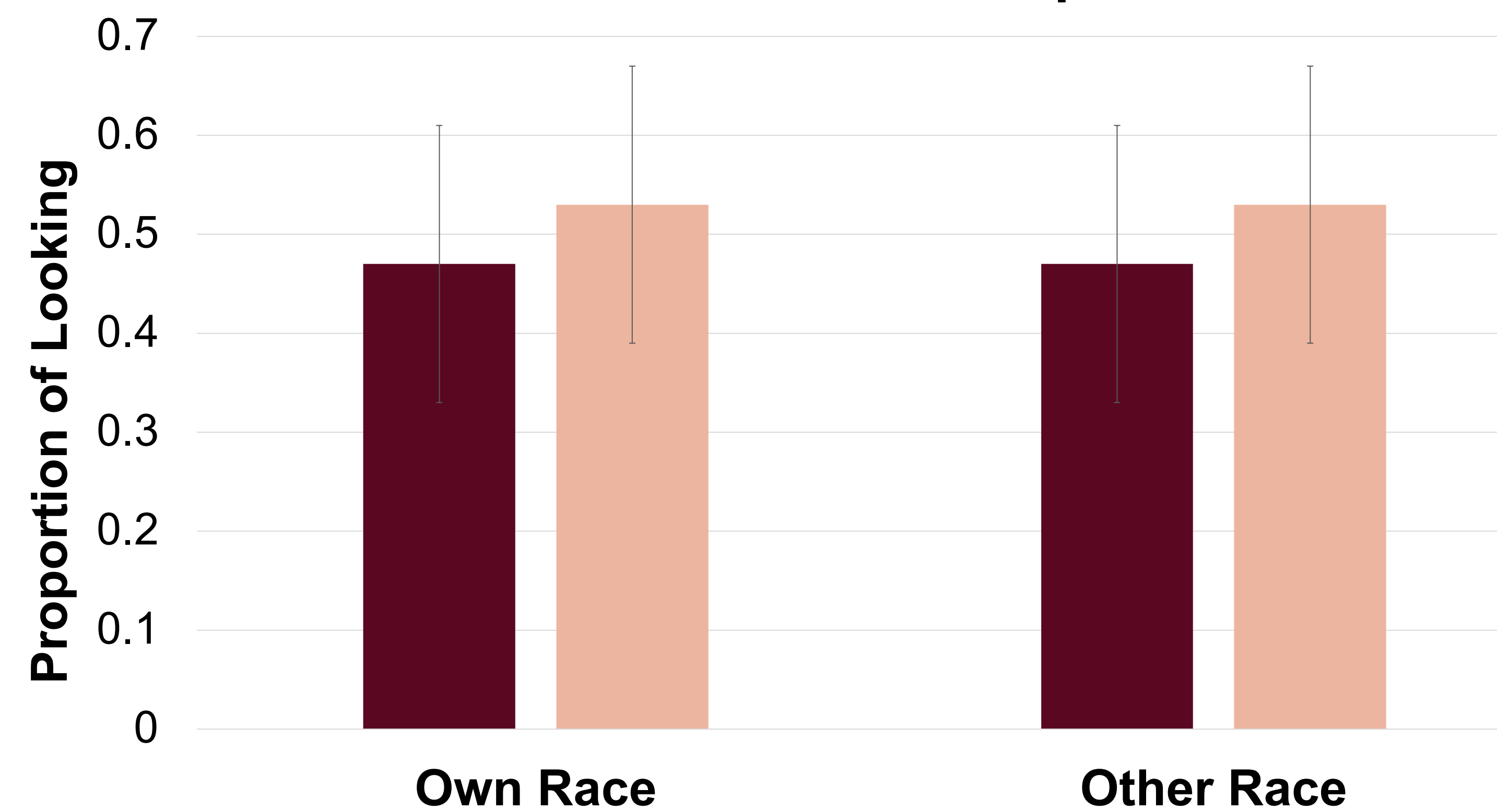
Group	Age (M)	Gender
Bi or Multiracial	314 days SD = 34.54	36M, 51F
Monoracial BIPOC	306 days SD = 33.62	34M, 33F
Monoracial White	321 Days SD = 36.67	39M, 39F

Results

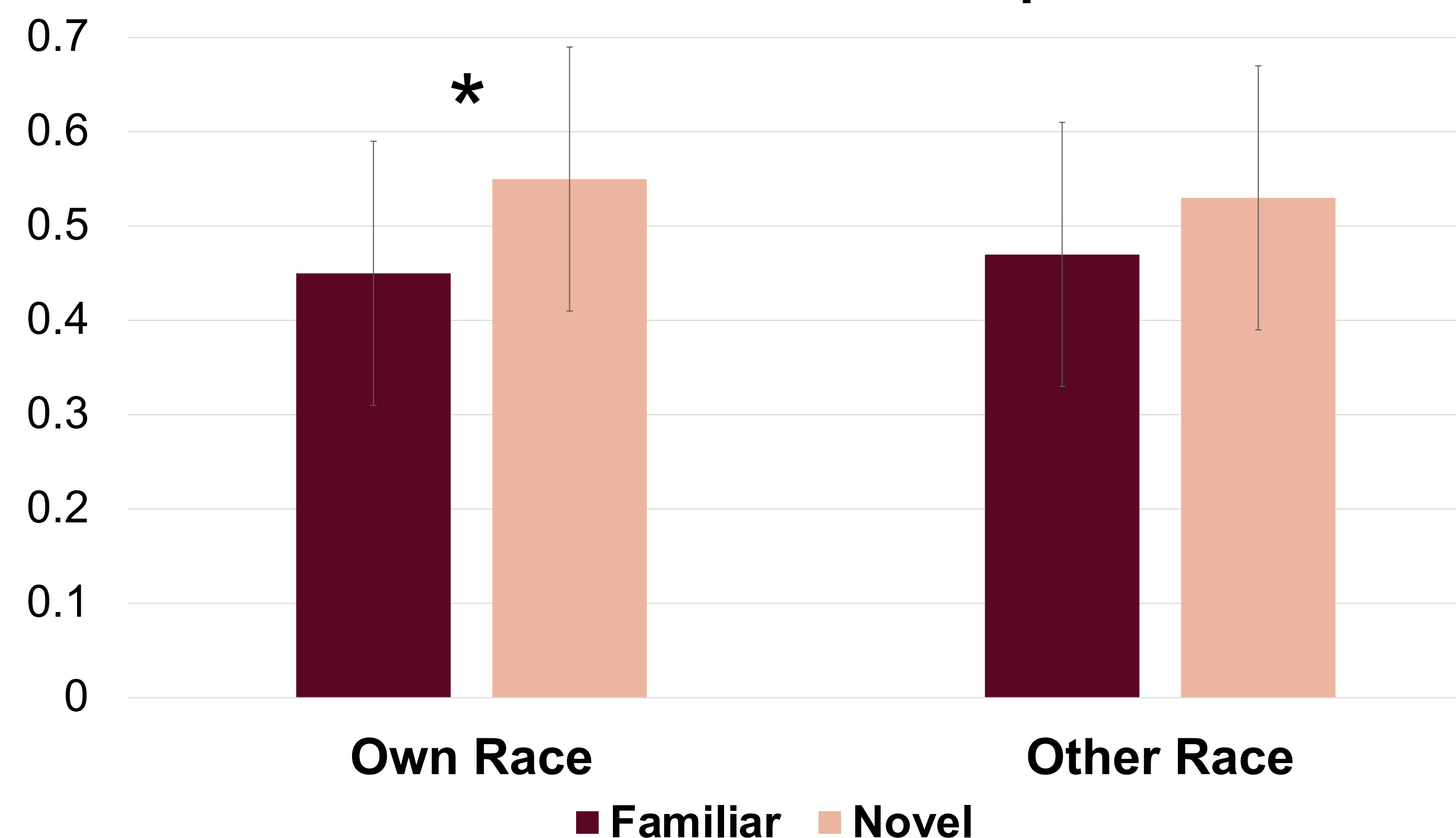
Multiracial Participants



Monoracial BIPOC Participants



Monoracial White Participants



Results (cont'd.)

Multiracial infants did not show a novelty preference for own- ($p = .715$) or other-race ($p = .645$) faces

Monoracial BIPOC infants did not show significant novelty preferences for own- ($p = .072$) or other-race ($p = .118$) faces

Monoracial White infants showed a novelty for own-race ($p = .004$), but not other-race ($p = .113$) faces

Discussion

Multiracial infants did not demonstrate the ORE

- This is distinct from the pattern of responses of monoracial participants belonging to racial minority and majority backgrounds (monoracial BIPOC participants showed effects in the same direction as monoracial White infants)
- Multiracial infants may experience greater exposure to faces of multiple racial backgrounds in the first year of life, diminishing the ORE
- A strength of this research is the large sample size, drawing from three different studies on Children Helping Science
- Future research should
 - Include older multiracial infants to investigate whether the ORE is delayed or continues to be diminished in early childhood
 - Investigate individual differences in multiracial infants' early face experience in shaping the ORE



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References

- ¹Kelly et al. (2007). The other-race effect develops during infancy: evidence of perceptual narrowing. *Psychological science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9280.2007.02029.x>
- ²Bauer et al. (2023). Community diversity and the other-race effect in infancy. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1214075>
- ³Woo et al. (2020). A developmental investigation of the other-race categorization advantage in a multiracial population. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2020.104870>
- ⁴Scott & Schulz. (2017). Lookit (part 1): A new online platform for developmental research. *Open Mind*. https://doi.org/10.1162/OPMI_a_00002