

# How people look at faces differently



## KATSUMI WATANABE

15th March 2011

4pm Tuesday 15th March

Room LG01,  
New Academic Building,  
Goldsmiths College, New Cross,  
London.

All Welcome

email: [m.bishop@gold.ac.uk](mailto:m.bishop@gold.ac.uk)

**Facial processing is considered to be one of the fundamental visual processes necessary for successful social interaction.** It has therefore been assumed that face processing is largely universal among humans. However, recent studies have accumulated to challenge the idea of strictly universal facial processing. In this talk, I will present two on-going studies on real- and artificial-face processing from our laboratory.

One study concerns eye movements during face observation in Japanese deaf people. We found differential fixation patterns between deaf and hearing people. The other study examines how people perceive and evaluate ambiguous faces of statues depicting Buddha. These results suggest that face processing and related mechanisms are not homogenous but can be influenced by experience.

*Katsumi Watanabe is Associate Professor of Cognitive Science at the University of Tokyo. He received his PhD in Computation and Neural Systems from California Institute of Technology, in 2001, for his work in cross-modal interaction in humans. He was a research fellow at the National Institute of Health (USA) and a researcher at the National Institute of Advanced Science and Technology (Japan). His research interests include: scientific investigations of explicit and implicit processes, interdisciplinary approaches to cognitive science, and real-life applications of cognitive science.*