

Neural basis of cultural influence on self-representation

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Culture affects the psychological structure of self and results in two distinct types of self-representation (Western independent self and East Asian interdependent self). However, the neural basis of culture-self interaction remains unknown. We used fMRI to measure brain activity from Western and Chinese subjects who judged personal trait adjectives regarding self, mother or a public person. We found that the medial prefrontal cortex (MPFC) and anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) showed stronger activation in self- than other-judgment conditions for both Chinese and Western subjects. However, relative to other-judgments, mother-judgments activated MPFC in Chinese but not in Western subjects. Our findings suggest that Chinese individuals use MPFC to represent both the self and the mother whereas Westerners use MPFC to represent exclusively the self, providing neuroimaging evidence that culture shapes the functional anatomy of self-representation.

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Introduction

Research has shown that culture influences the way we think about ourselves (Hofmann, 2001; Markus & Kitayama, 1991). In particular, Westerners tend to view themselves as independent entities, while East Asians view themselves as interdependent entities (Hofmann, 2001). Research has also shown that culture influences the way we think about others (Roccas & Sagie, 1997).

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 C ... y ... C ... , H ... (2006) MPFC
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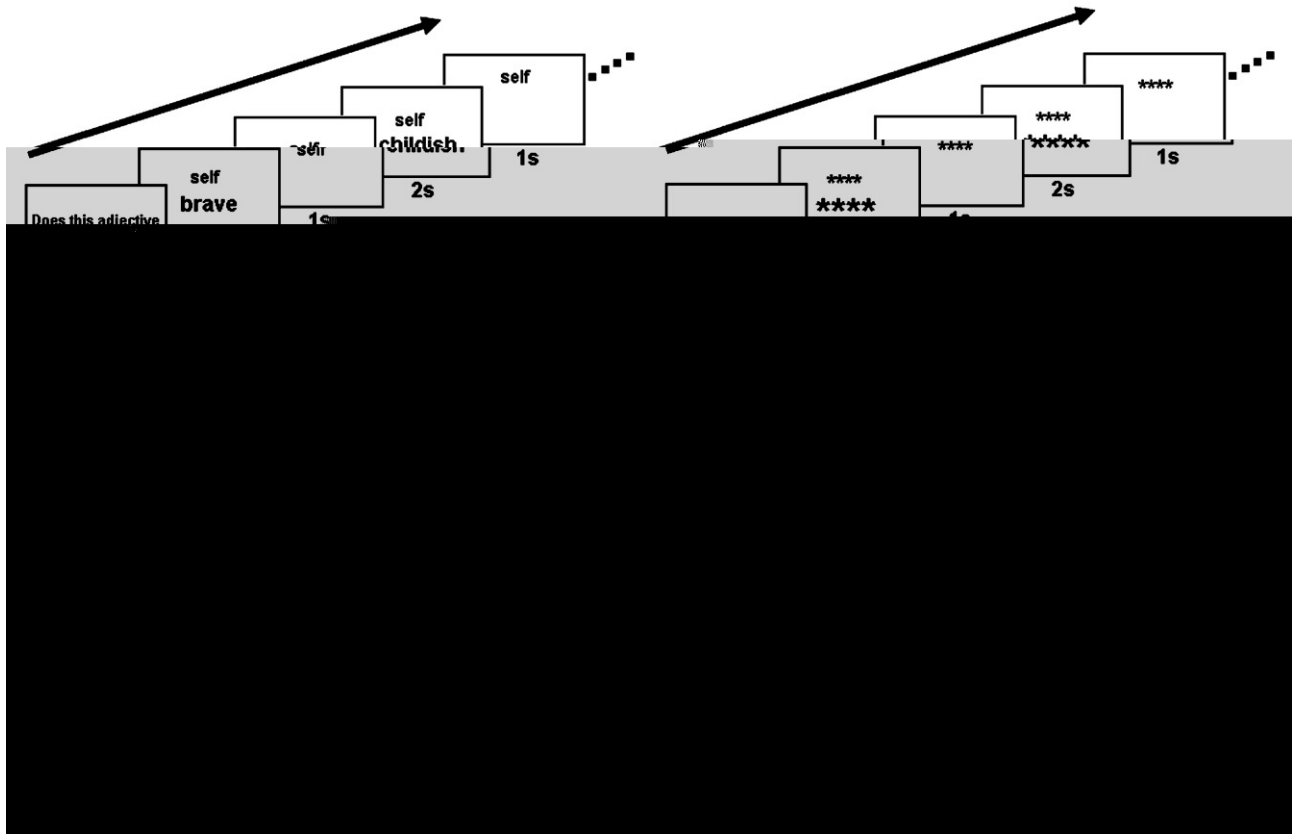


Fig. 1. The sequence of boxes in the experiment. The boxes are arranged in a staircase pattern. The boxes are labeled with the adjectives “brave” and “childish.” The boxes are labeled with the adjectives “brave” and “childish.” The boxes are labeled with the adjectives “brave” and “childish.” The boxes are labeled with the adjectives “brave” and “childish.”

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M I a a a o. B. 3- MR. B MRI C. B R. P. A 2*- (R=2000 , E=30 =90 , 3 , 0.75 , F =220 , 64 64 32) 3.4 3.4 3.75 32 . F . E 324 . D 162 . H - 3D 1- 0.9 0.9 (256 256 , R=1600 , E=3.93).

M I a a a P M (PM2, D C N y, K) y . F (2 2 2 3) M N I (MNI) N y (F HM) G 6 A () y () <0.05, MNI (, 1998) I / (ROI) y MPFC ACC. ROI y C MPFC ACC MRI 3 MRI y MRI (AN A)

J (,) C (C). MRI - - A AN A R () C (C MRI

Results

C (y 2 (: C) 4 (: , ,) AN A C (,) (F(3,72)=58.41, <0.01) C (F(1,24)=25.46, <0.01). (F(3,72)=9.52, <0.01), y (C : : F(1,24)=4.69, <0.05; : F(1,24)=4.87, <0.05; : : F(1,24)=4.90, <0.05; : F(1,24)=5.71, <0.05). C (: F(1,24)=1.65, >0.1; : F(1,24)=1.10, >0.1) (: F(1,24)=3.68, <0.06; : F(1,24)=5.80, <0.05; F . 2). C (1). MPFC y C (// =8/55/6, =3.68, BA 10) (0/51/3, =4.07, BA 10; F . 3). A ACC (-6/36/20, =3.62 -2/33/30, =3.76, BA32) (-24/57/12, =4.27, BA10) C y ACC (-6/33/0, =4.70, BA24). MPFC (2/55/3, =3.49, BA10; F . 3), ACC (0/18/18, =3.50) (-22/59/15, =3.49) C H y ACC (-4/35/-2, =4.11) MPFC (-4/46/-6, =3.78, BA10; F . 3) C ROI y MPFC (8/55/6 (C) 0/51/3 ()) (. ,) . MPFC y MPFC y (F . 4). MPFC C A

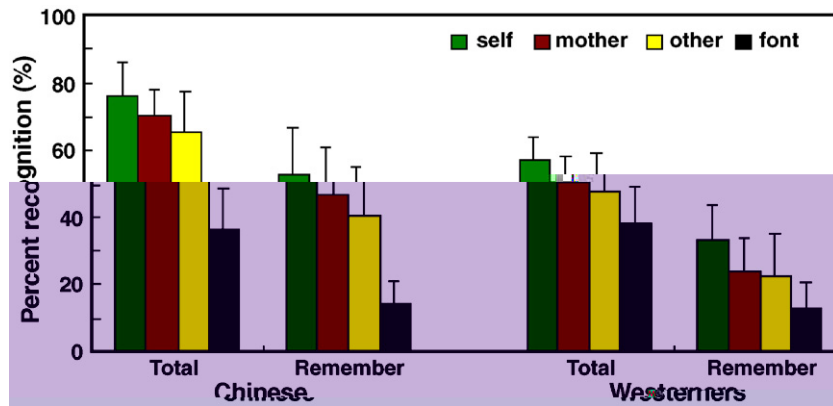


Figure 2. Percent recognition of Chinese and Westerners. **A**, Chinese. **B**, Westerners. Error bars represent SEM. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Region	ROI	BA	Volume (mm ³)	MPFC	ACC	F	P
Chinese	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
Westerners	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P
	ROI	BA	Volume	MPFC	ACC	F	P

ROI = region of interest; BA = Brodmann area; MPFC = medial prefrontal cortex; ACC = anterior cingulate cortex; F = F value; P = p value. *** $p < 0.001$.

MPFC ($F(2,48)=3.58, p < 0.05$). P > 0.05). C ((12)=1.138, $p > 0.05$). MRI ((12)=2.624, $p < 0.01$). ANOVA (C (C)) R () ($F(1,24)=6.67, p < 0.05$). P ($F(1,24)=5.96, p < 0.05$). C ($F(1,24)=1.47, p > 0.05$). ROI y MRI ACC (-6/36/20 (C)) -6/33/0 (); F . 4). ACC MPFC (2,48)=1.17, $p > 0.05$) C J (F (1,24)=0.35, $p > 0.1$). ACC y. F y, MRI ANOVA (C (C)), R () A F (MPFC . ACC) C R A - F ($F(1,24)=5.90, p < 0.05$), MPFC y.

Discussion

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B... A... 1979. ... 13, 420-432.

B... 2000. ... 4, 215-222.

C... D... 1999. ... 10, 26-34.

A... C... D... D... B... 2006. ... 1, 18-25.

A... 2001. ... A... 69, 881-906.

... C... C... 2002. ... A... 14, 785-794.

... C... B... B... A... B... D... A... 2001. ... 78, B1-B15.

... C... 2002. ... 17, 1080-1086.

B... B... A... 1989. ... 56, 853-865.

D... A.B., 2004. ... 87, 421-435.

... 1990. ... C... B... 1980. ... 38, 257-269.

A... 1991. ... 98, 224-253.

B... C... D... D... 2005. ... 28, 797-814.

B... A... 1977. ... 35, 677-688.

B... C., 2004. ... 22, 941-947.

C.A., ... 2004. ... 42, 1168-1177.

C... B... 1997. ... 121, 371-394.

... 1998. ... A... B... 1999. ... (B...), ... 11-42.

... 2006. ... C... 49, 89-96.

... 2002. A... C... 45, 120-128.