

May 20, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17206-edited.doc).

**Title:** The influence of gender in the recognition of basic facial expressions: a critical literature review

**Author:** Larissa Forni-Santos, Flávia L. Osório

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Psychiatry*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 17206

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 -Format has been updated

2 -Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

(1) This systematic review deals with a relevant issue such as the influence of gender in the recognition of facial expressions. Authors' main findings are the lack of homogeneity among the studies and their serious methodological flaws. Data are therefore inconclusive and this fact strongly suggests the need for further studies with improved and standardized procedures. The manuscript is easy to read, and results and comments are well exposed throughout the paper. The authors assure that there are no systematic reviews available dealing with evidence produced in this field. This is a strong point of this review but I would suggest they clarify what Fusar-Poli et al's results were in this specific field. Moreover, why other reviews and meta-analyses such as Chaplin & Aldao (2013) or Statucka & Walder (2013) are out of their scope. My only other suggestion would be to specify strengths and caveats of their methodology

RE: *We included the meta-analyses conducted by Fusar-Poli with the intention that show that differences related to gender no occur only in performance variables (like accuracy, latency time..) but in different levels like neurobiological functioning. We didn't include the meta-analyses conducted by Chaplin & Aldao (2013) and Statucka & Walder (2013) because we understand that these studies are less related with the goal of the introduction of the present study, despite these studies have found differences related with the gender. Chaplin & Aldao (2013) reviewed the expression of emotion in children and Statucka & Walder (2013) the efficacy of "social cognitions remediations" (an intervention) in schizophrenics patients.*

(2) I really appreciate your serious effort to collect, arrange and evaluate the data of previously published articles about the influence of gender in the recognition of basic facial expressions. However, I think it can be more meaningful if it contains not only the limits of the studies conducted to date, but also your opinion, plan or method for the future standardized study in discussion part.

RE: *We included this suggestion in text – see page 14.*

3- References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Psychiatry*.

Sincerely yours,

Flávia de Lima Osório