

RE: RE: Content error [ref:_00D0Y35Iji._5007R2p9roJ:ref] 1832997

From helmy.m@protonmail.com <helmy.m@protonmail.com>

To Amey, Abi <Abigail.Amey@informa.com>

CC Rodrigues Faia, Tatiana <Tatiana.Faia@tandf.co.uk>, cwelham@hotmail.com, r.evans14@btinternet.com, T&F Support tandfonline Salesforce Forward <support@r-1m8mn1ykvwhwusc8gbx0xle8ehfeftph67qx91ur6pfk>

Date Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 at 11:47 AM

Dear Abi,

Thank you kindly for your message and for your concern.

Kind regards,
Mohamed Helmy
MD, PhD

helmy.m@protonmail.com

+65 83 555 815

10 Jurong Lake Link, #15-39

Singapore 648131

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

----- Original Message -----

On Monday, January 11, 2021 7:50 PM, Amey, Abi <Abigail.Amey@informa.com> wrote:

Dear Helmy,

Thank you for your latest email and for raising these concerns with us.

I am the journal manager for *Early Child Development and Care* and I will be investigating each of your concerns against the published article and I will let you know if any action will be taken as a result.

Please note that this may take some time, as I will be investigating each point thoroughly, and so I thank you in advance for your patience.

I will be back in touch at a future date.

Best wishes,

Abi

Abi Amey (*She/her*) – Portfolio Manager, Education

Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group
2&4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon

Oxfordshire, OX14 4RN, UK
Currently working from home

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abigail.amey@informa.com



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From: Helmy, M. <helmy.m@protonmail.com>

Sent: 06 January 2021 09:54

To: Rodrigues Faia, Tatiana <Tatiana.Faia@tandf.co.uk>; cwelham@hotmail.com; r.evans14@btinternet.com; T&F Support tandfonline Salesforce Forward <support@r-1m8mn1ykvwhwusc8gbx0xle8ehfeftph67qx91ur6pfk1q7u6g.0y-35jiuae.eu11.case.salesforce.com>; Amey, Abi <Abigail.Amey@informa.com>

Subject: RE: RE: Content error [ref:_00D0Y35lji._5007R2p9roJ:ref] 1832997

Dear Tatiana, Catherine, Abigail, and Professor Evans,

Tatiana, the matter is further complicated, not resolved.

Professor's Esposito's rebuttal confirms ethical misconduct and scientific misrepresentation in Durnford et al. (2020). Professor Esposito writes that 'data was collected once' with 'multiple research questions' [and reported in several articles as separate unrelated studies]. Therefore, the full constellation of work produced from IRB-2018-06-016 must be stated, and the methodological concerns I mentioned in point 1.b. are worrying.

The citations I mention in point 2. are problematic because Durnford et al. (2020) base their hypothesis on these citations. If they are cited incorrectly then obviously the hypothesis needs to be revised. May Durnford et al. otherwise support the claim that visual stimuli carrying a positive valence are better processed in children than those carrying a negative valence?

No statements regarding deterministic interpretations were made. Laypersons could *misinterpret* the findings deterministically, and therefore it is important to validate the hypothesis on which the study is based.

I am aware of the authors' generosity in making available raw data for others, as I mentioned in point 3.

I guess for some it's OK to reproduce their own artwork in multiple publications, and I think the reader should be informed of this.

Professor Esposito chose to address me as "...dr Mohamed Helmy..." thrice. I believe it is important to maintain established civil and academic norms for constructive and objective discussions.

Kind regards,

Mohamed Helmy

MD, PhD

helmy.m@protonmail.com

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10 Jurong Lake Link, #15-39

Singapore 648131

----- Original Message -----

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:55 PM, Rodrigues Faia, Tatiana <Tatiana.Faia@tandf.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Gianluca,

Many thanks for your reply. I am referring Dr Helmy to your response below. I trust this resolves this matter.

Kind regards,

Tatiana

From: Gianluca Esposito <gesposito79@gmail.com>

Sent: 05 January 2021 16:41

To: Rodrigues Faia, Tatiana <Tatiana.Faia@tandf.co.uk>; Andrea Bizzego <andrea.bizzego@unitn.it>; #NUR ATIQAH BTE AZHARI# <atiqah.azhari.09@gmail.com>

Cc: justinra001@e.ntu.edu.sg; Amey, Abi <Abigail.Amey@informa.com>

Subject: Re: RE: Content error [ref:_00D0Y35lji._5007R2p9roJ:ref] 1832997

Dear Tatiana

We read the issues raised by dr Mohamed Helmy - and I am sorry if I missed any previous correspondence.

Briefly, we comment here on the points raised by dr Mohamed Helmy

1a/b: the same IRB is used in multiple papers because the experimental design and collected data allowed answering to many research questions.

There are no multiple studies: participants took part in only one complex experiment, and we collected data once. The multiple papers come from multiple research questions that are investigated.

2a Put in the context of where they were cited, it is clear that the mentioned studies were not cited to support any argument but to provide possible interpretations of the results that, as any scientific study, do not aim to be conclusive but to provide further directions of investigation.

2b Our papers target researchers in the fields and present the results that we obtained after we used the experimental data to answer the research questions. As any other study, we could only focus and comment on the data we had. Given the nature of the data, biological interpretation was required. We do believe that we did not include any claim about the deterministic valence of the findings. Moreover, the research interest of our lab is to investigate parenting from different perspectives, for instance including genetic, social, and

environmental factors. We are very careful to cultivate the relationship with parents that come to our lab and we do our best to properly disseminate the findings from our studies.

3 Our data are publicly available as are the data processing software. We are also very active in our scientific community to ensure the required rigor and appropriate approaches are applied.

4 Graphic contents in the papers come from artwork work from our lab.

Finally, we do encourage dr Mohamed Helmy to contact us and we will be glad to discuss more the findings.

Thank you for your time

Gianluca

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 3:13 PM Rodrigues Faia, Tatiana <Tatiana.Faia@tandf.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Gianluca,

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to you because a reader of GECD has gotten in touch with us, asking for clarification on a few points on your paper "Presence of Parent, Gender and Emotional Valence Influences Preschoolers' PFC Processing of Video Stimuli" and raising the possibility that there are potential errors in the content.

We were wondering if you could clarify these, also with the reader, and let us know if amendments are required.

I have highlighted the reader's comments in yellow below.

Kind regards,

Tatiana

Information Classification: General

Information Classification: General

From: Taylor & Francis Online <support@tandfonline.com>
Sent: 24 December 2020 07:52
To: Amey, Abi <Abigail.Amey@informa.com>
Cc: Hartley, Daniel <Daniel.Hartley@tandf.co.uk>
Subject: FW: RE: Content error [ref:_00D0Y35lji._5007R2p9roJ:ref]

Hi guys,

Please also see below another query from our customer:

I do have a second query which I had also sent using the contact form. On your website (<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=editorialBoard&journalCode=gecd20>) it states, "...Assistant Editor: Cathryn Welahm - Brunel University, London, UK...". However, to the best of my knowledge there is no Cathryn Welahm at Brunel University, London, UK. Given the strict editorial practice of Taylor & Francis Online, may the affiliation of Cathryn be clarified please?

Thank you for your help.

Kind regards,

Megan Davies
Customer Service Apprentice
Customer Services
Taylor & Francis Group.
4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN, UK.
Web: www.tandfonline.com
e-mail: Megan.Davies@tandfonline.com
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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Taylor & Francis Online [support@tandfonline.com]

Sent: 23/12/2020 21:43

To: Abigail.amey@informa.com

Cc: Daniel.Hartley@informa.com

Subject: FW: RE: Content error [ref:_00D0Y35lji_5007R2p9roJ:ref]

Hello,

Please see email listed below and advise.

Regards,

Karen

----- Original Message -----

From: Helmy, M. [helmy.m@protonmail.com]

Sent: 12/23/2020 12:26 PM

To: support@tandfonline.com

Subject: RE: Content error []

Dear Lene,

Please call me Helmy.

Yes, correct, this is with reference to this article: <https://protect-mimecast.com/s/RT1eCjRvnlfjwxLP1tWu3y8?domain=doi.org>

Kind regards,

Mohamed Helmy

MD, PhD

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Singapore 648131

Sent with [ProtonMail](<https://protonmail.com>) Secure Email.

??????? Original Message ???????

On Wednesday, December 23, 2020 4:56 PM, Taylor & Francis Online <support@tandfonline.com> wrote:

> [Image_2019-06-25_15-53-05.png] Dear Mohamed Helmy

>

> Thank you for your email.

>

> Before I forward this on to the Editorial Team, please may I clarify if this is with reference to this article? - <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/RT1eCjRvnljwxLP1tWu3y8?domain=doi.org>

>

> I look forward to your reply.

>

> Best wishes,

> Lene Lourdes

> Customer Service Executive

>

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> -----Original Message-----

> Subject: Content error

> Sent by: helmy.m@protonmail.com

> Sent on: 23/12/2020

>

> Customer Type: Student/Researcher

> Institution Name: Independent

> Full Name: Mohamed Helmy

> Journal Title: Early Child Development and Care

> ISSN: 0300-4430

> Additional Comments: Dear Professor Evans and Catherine,

>

> Regarding the article (Durnford et al., 2020) published in Early Child Development and Care:

>

> 1. The article states: "...All methods were performed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations, as well as following the Helsinki declaration. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Nanyang Technological University (IRB-2018-06-016)..." (Durnford et al., 2020, page 4). The same IRB is mentioned in (Azhari et al., 2020b) as well as (Azhari et al., 2020a), which introduces the following complications:

>

> a. It is unclear if the studies are fully compliant with the Helsinki Declaration as there are at least three discrete research questions. I believe this is permitted and as much work is invested in these studies; however the full constellation of studies involved in one IRB protocol can be briefly mentioned in all publications produced from it. May the ethical background of the studies included in the IRB protocol be clarified in Durnford et al. (2020)?

>

> b. Significant methodological concerns are raised if the same participants took part in all three studies. For example: (i) in Azhari et al. (2020b) participants filled in a questionnaire and took part in play sessions, which should then be mentioned in Durnford et al. (2020) as well as regarding timing of events; and (ii) in Azhari et al. 2020a a virtual control group signal is taken from the sample. As I understand, the study in Durnford et al. (2020) is hypothesis-driven and so a note on the statistical approach for any inter- or intra-study dataset use is relevant. May methodological procedures be clarified if any participants took part in more than one study?

>

> 2. The hypothesis in Durnford et al. (2020) is significantly based on the premise that visual stimuli carrying a positive valence are better processed in children than those carrying a negative valence, and the authors cite Gao et al. (2010), Kauschke et al. (2019), and Leppänen and Hietanen (2004) but these references do not support this argument.

>

> a. Kauschke et al. (2019) warns against conclusive remarks on processing ability and emotional valence of

the stimulus, Gao et al. (2010) explores perceptual structure, similarity judgements, and signal patterns, and Leppänen and Hietanen (2004) explored recognition speed of happy vs. sad faces. This discrepancy is highlighted in the discrepancies of interpretation reported in Durnford et al. (2020) in the Discussion, first paragraph, page 7: second and third hypotheses, confirmed and rejected respectively, and in addition significant interaction between gender and emotional valence measured. May the premise on which interpretation of data in Durnford et al. (2020) be validated?

>

> b. As the findings in Durnford et al. (2020) as well as in Azhari et al. (2020a and 2020b) are interpreted in a biological framework and may be perceived deterministically by parents taking part in the study, later by the children themselves, and laypersons in general, it is important to clarify neural and developmental underpinnings of the hypotheses tested.

>

> 3. As the authors often and generously publish their datasets, information mentioned in point 1.(b).(ii) above may be of interest to others in the rising field of novel statistical and design approaches in neuroscience.

>

> 4. Diagrams are reproduced between Durnford et al. (2020) and analogous articles mentioned above, I did not look at copyrights.

>

> Unfortunately I am unable to contact the corresponding author.

>

> Kind regards,

>

> Mohamed Helmy

> MD, PhD

>

> helmy.m@protonmail.com

> +65 83 555 815

> 10 Jurong Lake Link, #15-39

> Singapore 648131

>

> Azhari, A., Bizzego, A., and Esposito, G. (2020a). Father-child dyads exhibit unique inter-subject synchronisation during co-viewing of animation video stimuli. bioRxiv, 2020.2010.2030.361592. doi:10.1101/2020.10.30.361592

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> Azhari, A., Wong, A.W.T., Lim, M., Balagtas, J.P.M., Gabrieli, G., Setoh, P., and Esposito, G. (2020b). Parents' Past Bonding Experience with Their Parents Interacts with Current Parenting Stress to Influence the Quality of Interaction with Their Child. *Behavioral Sciences* 10(7), 114. doi:10.3390/bs10070114

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> Durnford, J.R., Balagtas, J.P.M., Azhari, A., Lim, M., Gabrieli, G., Bizzego, A., and Esposito, G. (2020). Presence of parent, gender and emotional valence influences preschoolers' PFC processing of video stimuli. *Early Child Development and Care*, 1-11. doi:10.1080/03004430.2020.1832997

>

> Gao, X., Maurer, D., and Nishimura, M. (2010). Similarities and differences in the perceptual structure of facial expressions of children and adults. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology* 105(1), 98-115. doi:10.1016/j.jecp.2009.09.001

>

> Kauschke, C., Bahn, D., Vesker, M., and Schwarzer, G. (2019). The Role of Emotional Valence for the Processing of Facial and Verbal Stimuli-Positivity or Negativity Bias? *Front Psychol* 10, 1654. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01654

>

> Leppänen, J.M., and Hietanen, J.K. (2004). Positive facial expressions are recognized faster than negative facial expressions, but why? *Psychological Research* 69(1), 22-29. doi:10.1007/s00426-003-0157-2

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Gianluca Esposito, PhD

Associate Professor

Affiliative Behaviour and Physiology Lab [\[Lab Website\]](#)

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