Author’s response to reviews

Title: The relationship between facial skeletal class and expert-rated interpersonal skill: an epidemiological survey on young Italian adults

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Appleford,

Please find enclosed the revised version of the manuscript “The relationship between facial skeletal class and expert-rated interpersonal skill: an epidemiological survey on young Italian adults” by Senna et al.

Please note that we would like to thank you and the reviewers for the work you have made. In fact, the criticisms undoubtedly improved both the scientific contents and the readability of our manuscript. You will see that we could comply with the requests of the referees and you will find in the following sheets the answers to each specific question.

Finally, I would like to state that all the authors of the byline approved the manuscript content and that this manuscript is both, not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and free of any conflict of interest or financial implications.

Sincerely

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Senna et al. Answers to the Reviewers

Reviewer: Raymond Edler

- The fact that males have been shown to be twice as likely to be NS with respect to females is now briefly discussed.
- This statement has been rephrased in the abstract as an hypothesis.
- All the available literature on the relationship between facial skeletal class and perceived beauty has been quoted (Jefferson 1996; Michiels and Sather 1994).
- Due to the lack of epidemiological data concerning the distribution of the population among the three major facial skeletal classes, we could not calculate the power of the study. Hence, our strategy was, simplistically, to enroll a sample as big as we could (>1000 subjects).
- The denomination of the face Rx has been corrected. A sample figure has been provided, showing a schematic lateral cephalogram (see Figure 1A) and the calculation of the various angles for the determination of the facial skeletal class (Figure 1B to D).
- Although the ANB calculation might be too simplistic, we decided to use it in order to reduce the complexity of the study. The same consideration was the reason for not considering the vertical proportions. However, we do agree with the reviewer and this point has been briefly addressed in the discussion.
- The ability of managing interpersonal relationships has been better described and the terminology changed (see S vs. NS).
- In Italy, in order to qualify as able to work as specialists in the field of Psychiatry, physicians are asked to complete an opportune training (residency in Psychiatry). The psychiatrists could not be obviously calibrated, although the Military Academy does require that they undergo to a specific training before to be able to perform the evaluation of the candidates. The inter-personnel variations of the classification between S and NS were very small, mainly because of the clue given by the application of the Italian version of the MMPI-2, a previously validated test which was guiding the psychiatrist final choice.
- The psychiatrist performing the majority of the psychiatric work related to the study has been correctly acknowledged (D.A.).
In this study we analyze the correlation between the facial skeletal class, which is related to facial attractiveness and perceived beauty, to the success in managing interpersonal relationships (assessed by MMPI/psychiatrist). In fact, as quoted from the literature, Shaw and colleagues, among others, clearly demonstrated that dental arrangement plays a major role in determining the perceived beauty and success of one person (Shaw et al. 1985; Shaw et al. 1980; Shaw 1981; Kerosuo et al. 1995; Sergl and Stodt 1970). This is possibly even truer for the facial skeletal class, and we decided to design this study in order to specifically address this question, due to the lack of literature on this particular subject.

A diagram has been included, as required (Figure 1).

All the available literature on the relationship between facial skeletal class and perceived beauty has been quoted (Jefferson 1996; Michiels and Sather 1994).

To our knowledge, no epidemiological data concerning the distribution of the population among the three major facial skeletal classes are available. The results section has been changed: the distribution in classes has been reported as the first of our results.

The population enrolled in this study is a selected one and, therefore, any attempt to extend our findings to the general population should be made very cautiously, as suggested in the discussion.

Chi-square and p values for the overall data are now included in the text.

The discussion has been expanded according to the suggestion of the reviewer.

More details regarding the administration of the MMPI have been included.

Suggestions for unbiased future studies have now been included in the discussion.

We would like to especially thank for the very nice suggestion of reporting the percentages between classes for the two groups (S and NS). The tables have been accordingly remade. In any case, the percentage distribution among the three facial skeletal classes is reported in the first part of the results.
Reviewer: Todd K. K Shackelford

- Facial skeletal class has been shown to be related to attractiveness, as reported from the few data present in the literature (Jefferson 1996; Michiels and Sather 1994). Hence, our aim in this study was to assess if facial skeletal class is related to the capability of managing interpersonal relationships, which is closely related to the perceived beauty (attractiveness) as well. This aim has been presented with more details at the end of the introduction.

- The title has been changed according to the reviewer’s suggestion. As a matter of fact, we do agree that it now provides a more precise description of the real aims of our study.