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Investigating methods for measuring facial recognition under lamps of different spectral power distribution

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**Abstract**

Facial recognition is one of the interpersonal judgements carried out by pedestrians and road lighting should enhance the visual component of such judgements after dark. This article presents experiments carried out using two different procedures, identification and perceived recognition, to investigate why earlier studies led to inconsistent conclusions. For the identification procedure two observation durations were employed (1s, 3s). The two procedures led to similar conclusions regarding recognition ability at different distances. Review of these and past results suggests that an effect of lamp SPD will be found when the task is difficult, i.e. small size, brief observation, and correctly naming the target rather than picking from a sample.

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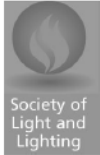
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and past results suggests that an effect of lamp (SPD) is more likely to be found when the task is difficult, i.e. small size, brief observation and correctly naming the target rather than simply picking a face from a sample.

**1. Introduction**

One intention of road lighting in residential roads is to improve the safety of pedestrians that face particular difficulties. Pedestrians would feel more comfortable if they were able to recognise approaching people by a minimum distance of 4 m.<sup>2</sup> Although 4 m might not be a well-founded nor precise estimate of the minimum distance at which recognition should be expected,<sup>4</sup> improving the distance for face recognition would contribute to an increase in safety.

Past studies<sup>3,7-13</sup> have been carried out to investigate face recognition under different conditions of street lighting, in particular spectral power distribution. Rea<sup>7</sup> found that face recognition at 4 m, approximately 0.4 lx, required for identification at 4 m, approximately 0.4 lx.

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