

Supplementary Information

Neural representations of the multidimensional self in the cortical midline structures

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SI Text

Behavioral performance in the label-shape matching task

Matched pairs: A repeated measures ANOVA (Identity \times Dimension) on ACC showed a significant main effect of Identity ($F(2, 36) = 35.91, P < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.67$), owing to more accurate responses to self *vs.* mother ($P < 0.001$), self *vs.* celebrity ($P < 0.001$), and mother *vs.* celebrity ($P = 0.002$) from *post hoc* comparison. There was a main effect of Dimension ($F(2, 36) = 3.59, P < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.17$), and its interaction with Identity was found ($F(4, 72) = 7.58, P < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.30$). *Post hoc* analysis showed that in the social dimension, $ACC_{\text{self}} > ACC_{\text{mother}} > ACC_{\text{celebrity}}$ (all $P < 0.002$); in the mental dimension, $ACC_{\text{self}} > ACC_{\text{mother}}$ ($P = 0.007$), $ACC_{\text{self}} > ACC_{\text{celebrity}}$ ($P = 0.001$), and there was no difference between mother and celebrity ($P = 0.50$); in the physical dimension, $ACC_{\text{self}} > ACC_{\text{mother}} > ACC_{\text{celebrity}}$ (all $P < 0.009$)

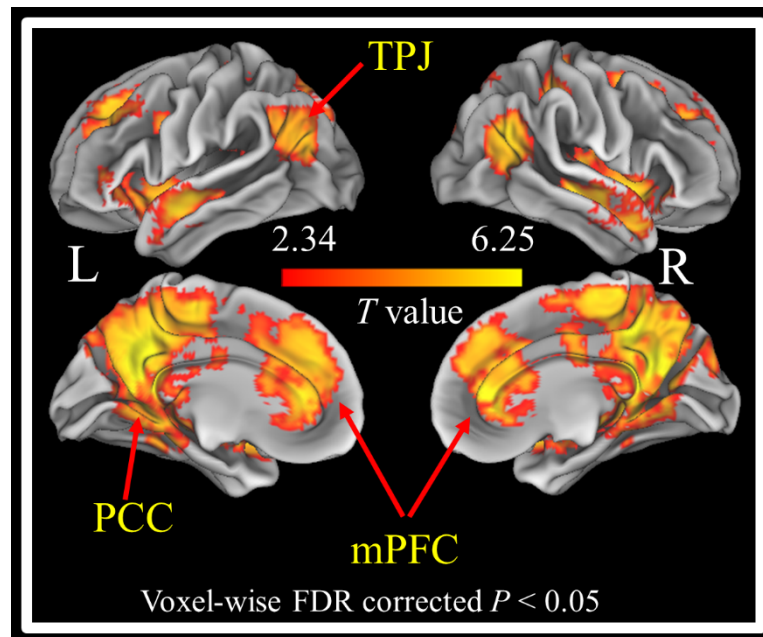
(**Supplementary Fig. 2 A left panel**). For response time (RT), a repeated measures ANOVA (Identity \times Dimension) showed a significant effect of Identity ($F(2, 36) = 51.47, P < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.74$), owing to faster responses to self *vs.* mother ($P < 0.001$), self *vs.* celebrity ($P < 0.001$), and mother *vs.* celebrity ($P = 0.009$) from *post hoc* comparison. Dimension did not show a main effect ($F(2, 36) = 0.18, P = 0.84, \eta^2 = 0.01$); an interaction effect between Identity and Dimension was found ($F(4, 72) = 7.71, P < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.30$); *post hoc* analysis showed that in the social dimension, $RT_{\text{self}} < RT_{\text{mother}} < RT_{\text{celebrity}}$ (all $P < 0.008$); in the mental dimension, $RT_{\text{self}} < RT_{\text{mother}}$, $RT_{\text{self}} < RT_{\text{celebrity}}$ (all $P < 0.001$), and there was no difference between mother and celebrity ($P = 0.97$); in the physical dimension, $RT_{\text{self}} < RT_{\text{mother}} < RT_{\text{celebrity}}$ (all $P < 0.003$) (**Supplementary Fig. 2 A middle panel**). Multiple comparisons were Bonferroni corrected. Together, these findings provided consistent evidence for unique responses to self-relevant associations in comparison with those related to

mother and celebrity. Our results were well consistent with findings from previous studies that have used a similar paradigm (1, 2).

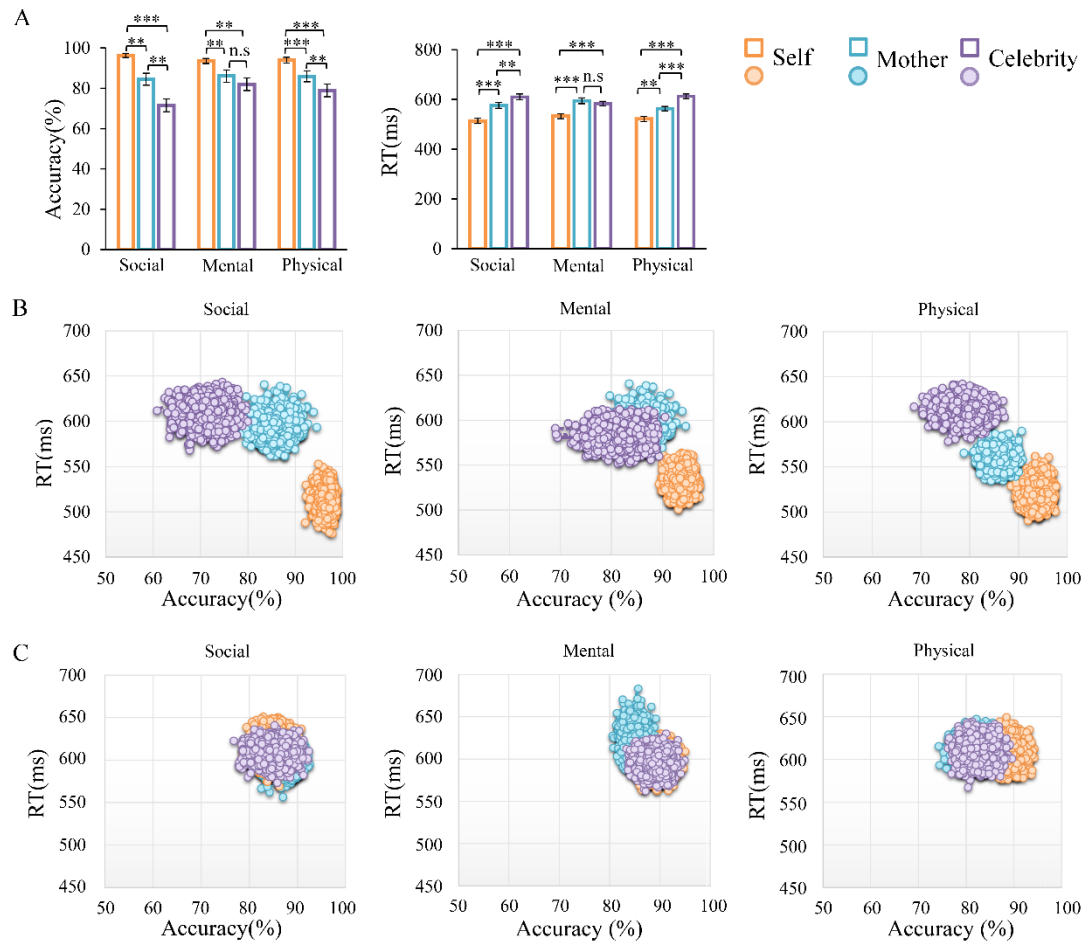
To test the distribution characteristics of matching judgments in each associated pair, we adopted a bootstrapping procedure. We combined the ACC and RT of each participant in each associated pair as a single data point (ACC, RT). A bootstrapped dataset was created by resampling the data with replacement, keeping the sample size of data as the number of participants; this procedure was repeated 2000 times to estimate the mean of the population in each associated pair across all dimensions. The bootstrapped data showed a clear boundary between self- and close/distant other-related associations in matched pairs in all dimensions (**Supplementary Fig. 2 B**).

Mismatched pairs: Repeated measures ANOVAs (Identity \times Dimension) were conducted separately for ACC and RT. For ACC, the main effect of Identity was significant ($F(2, 36) = 5.48, P = 0.008, \eta^2 = 0.23$); *post hoc* analysis showed that $ACC_{\text{self}} > ACC_{\text{mother}} (P = 0.005)$, and there was no difference between self and celebrity, or between mother and celebrity (all $P > 0.19$). Neither the main effect of Dimension nor its interaction with Identity was significant ($P > 0.05$). ANOVA on RT revealed a main effect of Identity ($F(2, 36) = 7.80, P = 0.002, \eta^2 = 0.30$); *post hoc* analysis showed that $RT_{\text{self}} < RT_{\text{mother}} (P = 0.02)$, $RT_{\text{celebrity}} < RT_{\text{mother}} (P = 0.02)$, and there was no difference between self and celebrity ($P = 1.00$). Neither the main effect of Dimension nor its interaction with Identity was significant ($P > 0.05$). Multiple comparisons were Bonferroni corrected. Neither the main effect of Dimension nor its interaction with Identity was significant ($P > 0.05$). The bootstrapped results for the ACC and RT, illustrated in **Supplementary Fig. 2 C**, showed that there was no clear boundary among self, mother, and celebrity across dimensions.

Supplementary figures



Supplementary Figure 1. Pattern similarity between identities within mental dimension. Neural patterns were more similar between mother and celebrity than between self and celebrity in the following regions: PCC/precuneus extending to mPFC and ACC (MNI x/y/z = -12/-54/21 mm, cluster size = 10226 voxels; maximum $T = 6.25$), mPFC (MNI x/y/z = -12/-3/57 mm, cluster size = 16 voxels; maximum $T = 2.66$), TPJ (MNI x/y/z = 51/-60/24 mm, cluster size = 367 voxels; maximum $T = 3.51$), dlPFC (MNI x/y/z = -42/39/-3 mm, cluster size = 60 voxels; maximum $T = 3.25$), caudate (MNI x/y/z = -15/-6/15 mm, cluster size = 5 voxels; maximum $T = 2.35$), and cerebellum (MNI x/y/z = 9/-36/-33 mm, cluster size = 31 voxels; maximum $T = 2.68$). mPFC, medial prefrontal cortex; PCC, posterior cingulate cortex; TPJ, temporoparietal junction.



Supplementary Figure 2. Behavioral results in the label-shape matching task. (A)

Behavioral results for the matched condition. Accuracy and response time as a function of identity and dimension. **(B)** Bootstrap results of accuracy and response time in three dimensions in the matched condition. **(C)** Bootstrap results of accuracy and response time in three dimensions in the mismatched condition. $**P < 0.01$; $***P < 0.001$. All multiple comparisons were Bonferroni corrected.

A

Self

Mother

Celebrity

MS

PS

SS

MM

PMSM

MC

PC

SC

Self

Mother

Celebrity

MS

PS

SS

MM

PMSM

MC

PC

SC

0.00

0.76

0.71

0.77

0.71

0.76

0.63

0.79

0.96

0.76

0.00

0.94

0.57

0.62

0.48

0.93

0.51

0.98

0.71

0.94

0.00

1.21

1.16

1.37

1.17

0.87

1.21

0.77

0.57

1.21

0.00

0.18

0.30

0.53

0.48

0.41

0.71

0.62

1.16

0.18

0.00

0.27

0.65

0.62

0.58

0.76

0.48

1.37

0.30

0.27

0.00

0.60

0.46

0.52

0.63

0.93

1.17

0.53

0.65

0.60

0.00

0.46

0.32

0.79

0.51

0.87

0.48

0.62

0.46

0.46

0.00

0.54

0.96

0.98

1.21

0.41

0.58

0.52

0.32

0.54

0.00

B

Self

Mother

Celebrity

MS

PS

SS

MM

PMSM

MC

PC

SC

Self

Mother

Celebrity

MS

PS

SS

MM

PMSM

MC

PC

SC

1.00

0.32

0.24

0.34

0.23

0.32

0.12

0.40

0.86

0.32

1.00

0.81

0.06

0.11

0.02

0.79

0.03

0.93

0.24

0.81

1.00

0.39

0.53

0.12

0.49

0.60

0.40

0.34

0.06

0.39

1.00

0.00

0.00

0.04

0.02

0.01

0.23

0.11

0.53

0.00

1.00

0.00

0.14

0.11

0.08

0.32

0.02

0.12

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0.04

0.12

0.79

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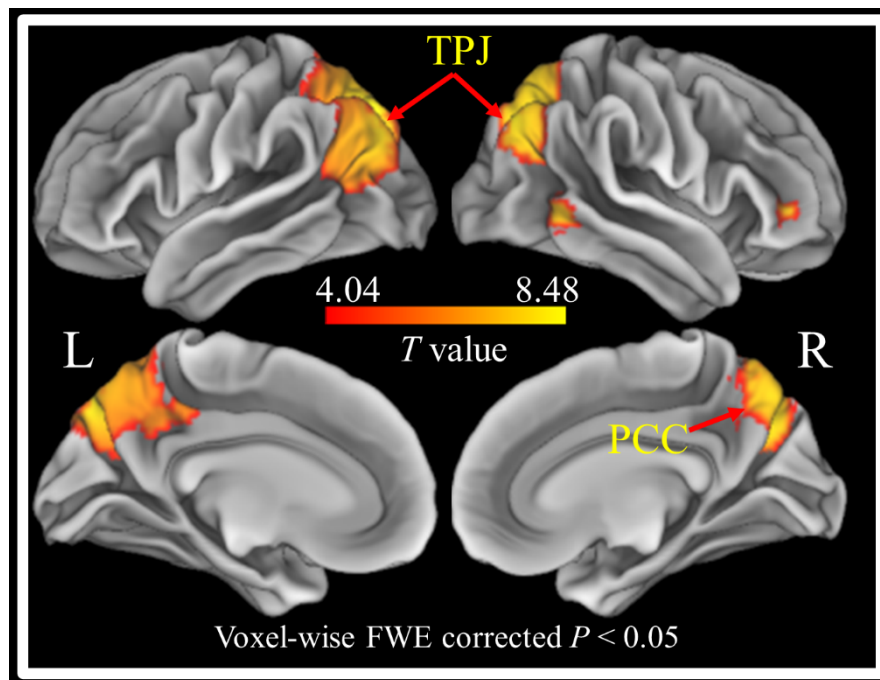
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Supplementary Figure 3. (A) Dissimilarity/distance for each pair of conditions, calculated as 1 minus the Pearson correlation coefficient. **(B)** Corresponding *P* values for the distance between each pair of conditions.

MS, mental-self; PS, physical-self; SS, social-self; MM, mental-mother; PM, physical-mother; SM, social-mother; MC, mental- celebrity; PC, physical- celebrity; SC, social-celebrity.



Supplementary Figure 4. Brain regions in which neural patterns were more related to the representation of self-knowledge than to self-identity, including the TPJ and PCC. TPJ, temporoparietal junction; PCC, posterior cingulate cortex; FWE, family-wise error.

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1. Demographic information and personality scores of participants in the fMRI experiment

Variables	Mean (SD)
Gender	45 males
Age (years)	20.94 (2.05)
Self-esteem	28.52 (3.39)
Social economic status	6.64 (1.75)
Independent	56.10 (8.57)
Interdependent	62.32 (7.85)
IRI	2.41 (0.45)

Note. Self-esteem score was measured with Self-esteem Scale (4), social economic status was measured by the Subjective Economic Status scale (5), independent and interdependent score were obtained from Self Construal Scale (6), and IRI score was collected from Interpersonal Reactivity Index (7). Standard errors are presented in parentheses. IRI, interpersonal reactivity index.

Supplementary Table 2. Full list of items used in the fMRI experiment.

Social dimension				
Asian	poor man	fan	landlord	high school student
American	scout leader	European	middle class	college student
customer	ads spokesman	idol	African	cellphone manufacturer
Buddhist	non-religious	professor	salesman	technical worker
emcee	undergraduate	athlete	bank customer	religious person
coach	house owner	Christian	student	teacher assistant
researcher	left-winger	volunteer	teacher	Olympic champion
Politician	shop assistant	civilian	cyclist	graduate student
Chinese	actor/actress	humanist	testee	mathematician
Korean	Arts student	Danish	PC user	white collar workers
driver	museum owner	bus driver	Gmail user	blue collar workers
car owner	Mac user	German	internet user	government employee
skier	right-winger	passenger	Facebook user	bank employee
tourist	bus passenger	tenant	football player	table tennis player
celebrity	bike owner	scout	cellphone user	basketball player
tour guide	waiter/waitress	consumer	self-employed	not a celebrity
Mental dimension				
decent	tolerant	assertive	confident	lazy
honest	Humble	picky	suspicious	easy-going
witty	calm	timid	healthy	mediocre
indifferent	rash	rough	friendly	rude
outgoing	merciless	diligent	talkative	smart
hostile	despicable	competent	arrogant	headstrong
clever	reliable	gregarious	dexterous	shy
aggressive	generous	firm	outstanding	open-minded
slow	easy-going	petty	rigid	intelligent
snobbish	fiery	earnest	Irritable	strong
hospitable	pessimistic	negative	rational	frank
loyal	arbitrary	humorous	naughty	stubborn
careless	famous	warm	superstitious	hypocritical
sincere	happy	selfish	courageous	disgusting
stupid	clumsy	modest	weak	dedicated
optimistic	mature	greedy	patient	impulsive
Physical dimension				
short	long hair	flawless	short fingers	stocky arms
straight hair	with no acne	fat	thin-lipped	heavier than 60 kg
thin arms	small eyes	wrinkled	broad shoulder	some acnes on the face
hyperopia	bald-headed	thin	small feet	asymmetrical face
big feet	flat-chested	buxom	thick-lipped	lighter than 60 kg
black hair	tufty-haired	tall	yellow hair	symmetrical face
choppy	pierced ears	myopia	small ears	narrow shoulder

big ears	unpierced ears	slim	yellowish skin	small hand
long arm	straight nose	tattoo	big nose	hour-glass figure
short neck	large eyes	long neck	tallow-faced	long eyelashes
green eyes	buxom body	no tattoo	bushy eyebrows	snaggle-toothed
blue pupil	straight teeth	small nose	boney body	long fingers
no freckles	out of shape	thin legs	short arm	ruddy faced
large waist	thick-legged	in shape	sparse eyebrows	short eyelashes
freckles	crooked nose	oval face	moon-faced	curly hair
short legs	short hair	big hand	long legs	light skin

Supplementary Table 3. Brain regions from searchlight results in which neural patterns were more associated with one's own personal knowledge than person identity.

Region	L/R	x/y/z (MNI)	t-value	cluster size
Precuneus/posterior cingulate gyrus/temporal parietal junction	L/R	-21/-75/42	8.76	2977
Middle temporal gyrus	R	57/-54/0	4.40	59
Inferior frontal gyrus	R	45/42/3	6.30	23

DM, dissimilarity matrix; L, left; R, right. Voxel-wise $P(\text{FWE}) < 0.05$.

Supplementary Table 4. Brain regions from searchlight results using Pearson linear correlation for the behavioral and theoretical models characterizing unique representations of the self.

Model	Region	L/R	x/y/z (MNI)	t-value	cluster size
Behavioral DM	Posterior cingulate gyrus	R	15/-51/30	9.71	4848
	Supramarginal gyrus	R	48/-51/21	6.02	
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-15/24/42	7.79	4882
	Medial frontal gyrus	R	18/24/42	7.47	
	Medial frontal gyrus	R	12/45/12	6.87	
	Middle Temporal gyrus	R	63/-9/-24	5.06	100
Self-uniqueness DM	Posterior cingulate gyrus	L	-6/-48/39	8.43	2155
		L	-42/-60/21	5.89	
	Medial prefrontal cortex	L	-3/39/-6	7.38	1998
	Superior frontal cortex	L	-21/30/33	6.99	
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-60/-3/-24	4.95	36
Identity-sensitive self-representation DM	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-3/39/-6	5.28	865
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-21/33/30	4.51	
	Posterior cingulate gyrus		0/-48/42	5.04	343
Dimension-sensitive self-representation DM	Posterior cingulate gyrus	L	-9/-45/39	7.52	5499
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-36/-69/27	7.17	
	Superior temporal gyrus	R	48/-60/27	5.01	
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-21/27/39	5.45	1001
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-42/42/27	4.65	
		L	-63/-9/-21	4.62	46
	Medial frontal gyrus	R	12/39/6	4.44	411
	Medial orbital frontal		0/39/-9	4.38	
	Middle frontal gyrus	R	30/24/36	4.34	139
	Middle frontal gyrus	R	36/39/6	3.92	8

DM, dissimilarity matrix; L, left; R, right. Voxel-wise $P(\text{FWE}) < 0.05$.

Supplementary Table 5. Brain regions from searchlight results using Kendall rank correlation for the behavioral and theoretical models characterizing unique representations of the self.

Model	Region	L/R	x/y/z (MNI)	t-value	cluster size
Behavioral DM	Posterior cingulate gyrus	R	15/-51/30	9.39	6021
	Superior temporal gyrus	R	57/-60/24	6.05	
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-39/-63/21	4.41	5621
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-18/30/36	7.81	
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-3/45/6	7.22	
	Superior frontal cortex	R	18/30/39	6.28	158
	Inferior temporal gyrus	R	63/-6/-21	5.02	
Self-uniqueness DM	Posterior cingulate gyrus	L	-9/-45/39	8.53	1864
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-3/39/-6	7.34	1958
	Superior frontal gyrus	L	-21/30/33	6.86	233
	Angular gyrus	L	-39/-60/21	5.66	
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-60/-3/-24	4.56	
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-66/-6/-18	4.37	18
Identity-sensitive self-representation DM	Posterior cingulate gyrus	R	3/-45/42	5.82	358
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-3/39/-6	5.81	838
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-21/33/30	4.84	
Dimension- sensitive self- representation DM	Posterior cingulate gyrus	L	-9/-45/39	9.62	5243
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-36/-69/27	9.06	736
	Middle temporal gyrus	R	48/-60/24	5.54	
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-21/27/39	5.99	
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-42/42/27	4.57	
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-48/42/21	4.32	
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-3/42/-6	4.72	334
	Anterior cingulate gyrus	R	12/39/3	4.62	
	Middle frontal gyrus	R	30/24/36	4.62	92
	Middle frontal gyrus	R	33/30/51	4.19	
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-63/-9/-21	4.47	11
	Inferior frontal gyrus	R	39/42/3	4.27	13

DM, dissimilarity matrix; L, left; R, right. Voxel-wise $P(\text{FWE}) < 0.05$.

Supplementary Table 6. Brain regions from univariate activation analysis of identities across dimensions.

Contrast	Region	L/R	x/y/z (MNI)	t-value	cluster size
Self vs. Celebrity	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-3/39/-6	14.56	1968
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-9/48/-3	14.29	
	Superior frontal gyrus	L	-24/39/33	9.61	
	Inferior parietal lobule	L	-57/-42/27	8.01	191
	Superior temporal gyrus	L	-42/-51/18	5.56	
		L	-3/-18/36	7.18	55
	Supramarginal gyrus	R	54/-48/30	5.96	39
		L	-6/-57/45	5.96	53
	Cerebelum	R	27/-63/-21	5.73	36
	Cerebelum	R	42/-72/-27	5.46	
	Cuneus	L	-18/-57/12	5.56	110
	Cuneus	L	-12/-51/3	5.48	
	Precuneus	L	-3/-69/21	5.45	
	Middle occipital gyrus	R	36/-84/3	5.44	19
	Cuneus	R	21/-51/12	5.26	7
Mother vs. Celebrity	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-6/51/-3	8.94	671
	Anterior cingulate gyrus	L	-6/33/-6	8.75	
	Superior frontal gyrus	L	-21/39/33	8.18	
	Medial frontal gyrus	R	18/48/15	5.91	39
Self vs. Mother	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-3/39/6	7.97	236
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-54/-54/3	7.36	245
	Supramarginal gyrus	L	-57/-45/24	5.38	
	Precuneus	L	-18/-66/27	6.14	187

Posterior cingulate gyrus	L	-12/-51/9	6.05	
Cuneus	L	-18/-57/21	5.7	
Cuneus	R	21/-54/15	5.96	64
Cerebelum	R	15/-69/-15	5.92	148
Cerebelum	R	21/-75/-21	5.76	
Cerebelum	R	30/-66/-21	5.3	
Middle occipital gyrus	L	-30/-87/6	5.82	57
Middle cingulate gyrus	R	0/-15/39	5.71	27
Middle occipital gyrus	R	33/-81/3	5.46	39
Middle temporal gyrus	L	-57/-30/-3	5.41	20
Precuneus	L	-6/-48/48	5.39	16
Superior occipital gyrus	L	-24/-78/21	5.32	16
Lingual gyrus	L	-15/-87/-6	5.21	50
Lingual gyrus	L	-21/-69/-12	5.17	
Lingual gyrus	L	-18/-75/-6	5.09	

L, left; R, right. Voxel-wise $P(\text{FWE}) < 0.05$.

Supplementary Table 7. Brain regions from univariate activation analysis of dimensions across identities.

Contrast	Region	L/R	x/y/z (MNI)	t-value	cluster size
Across Identities					
Social vs. Mental (activation)	Middle cingulate gyrus		0/-36/39	18.47	6810
	Precuneus	L	-36/-72/33	17.70	
	Inferior parietal gyrus	L	-33/-63/45	16.33	
	Middle temporal gyrus	R	57/-45/-12	11.16	283
	Inferior temporal gyrus	R	60 -18 -24	8.50	
	Medial frontal gyrus	L	-6/33/-15	6.24	32
	Medial frontal gyrus	R	36/48/-9	5.87	10
	Fusiform gyrus	L	-30/-33/-18	13.42	982
	Fusiform gyrus	R	30/-27/-21	10.06	121
	Superior frontal gyrus	L	-21/54/3	6.60	26
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-24/15/48	13.47	1245
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-42/12/30	10.92	
	Middle frontal gyrus	R	30/18/48	11.58	918
	Cerebellum	L	-33/-69/-48	8.57	84
	Cerebellum	L	-9/-75/-30	8.36	69
	Cerebellum	R	6/-51/-51	10.83	69
	Cerebellum	R	36/-69/-45	9.10	95
	Lingual gyrus	R	18/-75/-9	7.44	157
Social vs. Mental (deactivation)	Middle occipital gyrus	L	-24/-99/0	7.47	43
	Middle occipital gyrus	R	30/-96/0	8.07	55
	Anterior cingulate gyrus	L	-6/27/24	6.81	85
	Insula	L	-39/9/-9	5.84	16
	Fusiform gyrus	R	36/-45/0	5.49	9
	Superior frontal gyrus	L	-6/15/57	5.18	7
Social vs. Physical (activation)	Inferior temporal gyrus	L	-57/-9/-24	12.35	565
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-63/-39/-6	7.89	

Social vs. Physical (deactivation)	Inferior frontal gyrus	L	-45/21/-36	6.94	
	Superior temporal gyrus	R	51/-51/21	13.95	1607
	Angular	R	51/-60/24	13.04	
	Parahippocampa gyrus	L	-30/-30/-18	12.03	137
	Parahippocampa gyrus	R	27/-24/-24	9.71	83
	Anterior cingulate gyrus	R	3/42/-12	10.70	323
	Cerebelum	R	6/-51/-48	6.82	26
	Precuneus	L	-6/-57/21	13.72	1290
	Posterior cingulate gyrus	L	-6/-51/15	13.64	
	Middle cingulate gyrus	L	-3/-39/36	11.43	
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-24/24/45	9.27	322
	Middle frontal gyrus	R	24/27/45	8.51	225
	Middle occipital gyrus	R	-39/-69/33	15.94	827
	Superior temporal gyrus	L	-51/-57/21	12.12	
	Inferior frontal gyrus	L	-42/36/12	13.06	781
	Lingual gyrus	R	15/-75/-6	11.79	1400
	Lingual gyrus	L	-12/-84/-3	11.56	
	Inferior frontal gyrus	R	45/42/9	11.42	417
	Insula	R	30/21/3	6.66	
	Supplementary motor area		0/15/51	10.77	631
	Medial frontal gyrus	R	3/24/42	10.07	
	Middle frontal gyrus	L	-27/-3/51	6.55	
	Cerebelum	R	21/-72/-48	8.09	84
	Superior parietal gyrus	R	54/-36/57	5.51	15
	Postcentral gyrus	R	60/-27/48	5.28	
	Inferior parietal gyrus	L	-42/-42/39	5.40	7
Mental vs. Physical (activation)	Middle cingulate gyrus		0/-18/39	7.31	27
	Superior frontal gyrus	R	6/57/24	9.11	619
	Superior frontal gyrus	L	-9/57/21	6.98	

Mental vs. Physical (deactivation)	Anterior cingulate gyrus	R	12/51/12	8.42	
	Middle occipital gyrus	R	42/-84/9	8.49	72
	Superior temporal gyrus	R	63/-54/21	6.34	29
	Middle temporal gyrus	L	-45/15/-36	6.64	58
	Inferior frontal gyrus	L	-36/18/-18	6.32	
	Middle temporal gyrus	R	48/15/-33	7.73	29
	Cerebelum	L	-21/-87/-36	5.97	12
	Cuneus	R	9/-87/3	14.92	6988
	Cuneus	L	-9/-87/-3	14.55	
	Lingual gyrus	R	15/-75/-9	13.64	
	Inferior frontal gyrus	L	-45/9/27	14.47	1998
	Inferior frontal gyrus	R	45/36/12	13.87	1149
	Middle temporal gyrus	R	54/-48/-12	11.35	87
	Middle cingulate gyrus	R	3/-33/36	10.86	319
	Anterior cingulate gyrus	R	6/3/27	8.72	64
	Anterior cingulate gyrus	L	-3/9/24	6.52	
	Middle frontal gyrus	R	30/15/51	8.09	190
	Hippocampus	R	27/-30/-3	7.93	92
	Thalamus	R	18/-24/9	5.11	
	Cerebelum	R	15/-45/-48	6.10	19

L, left; R, right. Voxel-wise $P(\text{FWE}) < 0.05$.

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