

the face

essays and sketches

In thinking about social visualizations, the face can be both input and output. As input, the face is a source of social information - it provides cues about personality, attention, emotions, and intentions (or, at least, people interpret it this way - what information the face reveals about inner state remains a controversial issue). As output, the face can be a medium for indicating these qualities - or any others one might choose to map onto it.

- Oscar Wilde's novel [The Picture of Dorian Gray](#), is based on the notion that as people age, their face reflects the type of life they have lived. In this story, Dorian Gray possesses a portrait that ages instead - Dorian remains ever youthful, while the portrait, which he keeps hidden away, displays his cruelty and excess. Sketch an interface for a system in which user's history was etched in faces. Useful scenarios to ground your work might be reputation systems such as ebay or conversation systems such as slashdot. What information would you depict with this face? How would it "age"?
- What is the difference between the "emotion view" of the face and the "evolution view"? What are the implications of each standpoint for the use of the face as input? As output?