

Peer Review

Review of: "The Uncanny Valley Phenomenon: Where Is the Categorical Boundary Between Categorization Difficulty and Categorization Failure?"

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I have only a few comments to make. Generally, I think this article can make a valuable contribution to the literature and is concisely and clearly written.

Under the heading “critical analysis,” the points under *Firstly* and *Secondly* are well made.

The point beginning *Most importantly* is more contentious. When the response times in Experiments 1 and 2 are so similar, it is reasonable to draw an inference. Could the use of Bayesian statistics perhaps be of utility here? This would allow for the small magnitude of the difference in response times between Experiments 1 and 2 to be used to support an inference.

The stranger-avoidance hypothesis has potential for explaining results obtained not only from geometric stimuli but a much broader range of stimuli. This may be a line for future research; I would like to see consideration of the idea that stranger-avoidance stems from a lack of certainty about how to engage with an object/entity, not merely how to categorise it, though categorisation will generally offer a short-cut to deciding how to engage.

There is no mention of any relationship between categorisation difficulties and personality traits (e.g., tolerance of ambiguity, or even political ideology), but there is some literature on this that could perhaps be mentioned in the concluding remarks. This could offer more options for further investigation.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.