

Letters

COMMENT & RESPONSE

In Reply Drs Cooper and Banks raise an important, well-studied point: the human visual system can correctly convert from a 2-dimensional image (or a 2-dimensional projection on the retina) into 3 dimensions when the objects subtend the same angle and distance at initial capture and when subsequently viewed. In real life, this is almost instantaneous. The moment we see an individual in front of us, we perceive them and there is essentially no chance of there being a mismatch and the correct viewing angle/distance is a moot point. Interestingly, this phenomenon is mostly studied in controlled environments (eg, using a bite bar) and for specific tasks (eg, estimating angles between planes). As far as we know, it has never been studied for the specific task of evaluating the appearance of one's nose. As the authors of the Letter to the Editor have rightfully noted, if the viewing distance is too close then there is a mismatch between the "correct" and actual viewing distances. As our Discussion stated, "photographs taken at shorter distances will increase the perceived ratio of nasal breadth to bizygomatic breadth."¹ The focus here is on this perceived distortion.

Regardless of that, in the real world photographs are viewed and captured on various devices, from various distances and angles. Thus, the chances that an uninformed user

will stumble on the correct viewing distance and angle are slim. For this reason, we must educate users both on the way the brain interprets images (as Cooper and Banks suggest) and on the physical dimensions of 2-dimensional objects on the image plane (our Research Letter).¹ This will allow them to take a more rigorous approach when evaluating their facial features, regardless of image viewing conditions. All that being said, we appreciate the comment and believe that it complements and improves our initial publication. We hope this discussion will be the precursor to new research on how we evaluate portrait photographs.

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1. Ward B, Ward M, Fried O, Paskhover B. Nasal distortion in short-distance photographs: the selfie effect [published online March 1, 2018]. *JAMA Facial Plast Surg*. doi:[10.1001/jamafacial.2018.0009](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamafacial.2018.0009)