

## **FACULTY INTEREST SHEET: E. Hiris**

### **A. Biological Motion**

The movement of points of light representing the joints of a human actor is called biological motion. The activity of the actor can be quickly recognized, and to a certain extent, the motion of the points of light even carries information about the sex of the actor. Several SMP projects could be developed on biological motion perception. For example: What are the critical cues in perceiving the sex of a point-light actor? (See Campbell and Edmonds SMP) How do additional motions in the display affect the perception of biological motion? (See Hittle SMP)

### **B. Motion-Induced Blindness**

When a large patterned field moves, stationary objects will move in and out of awareness seemingly at random. With a large field of motion, an entire person can temporarily 'disappear!' What are the determining factors in motion-induced blindness? Do color, speed, size, importance of the object, etc play a role in whether or for how long the object disappears? Why does it happen at all and what does this tell us about how the brain works?

### **C. Subliminal Perception**

Advertisers claim that tapes with 'inaudible messages' can help you improve yourself. Although 'subliminal' can be difficult to define, several questions regarding subliminal perception could be developed into an SMP. For example: Do such tapes work, are messages even embedded on the tapes? What are the differences between people who believe in the efficacy of subliminal perception and those that do not?