

## Triangulating Neural Correlates of Consciousness

Montano I.<sup>1</sup>, Rajendran A.<sup>1</sup>, Allison L.<sup>1</sup>, Nicolacoudis A.<sup>1</sup>, Mudrik L. <sup>2,3</sup>, Sarig A. <sup>2</sup>, Schurger A. <sup>3</sup>, Pitts M.<sup>1</sup>

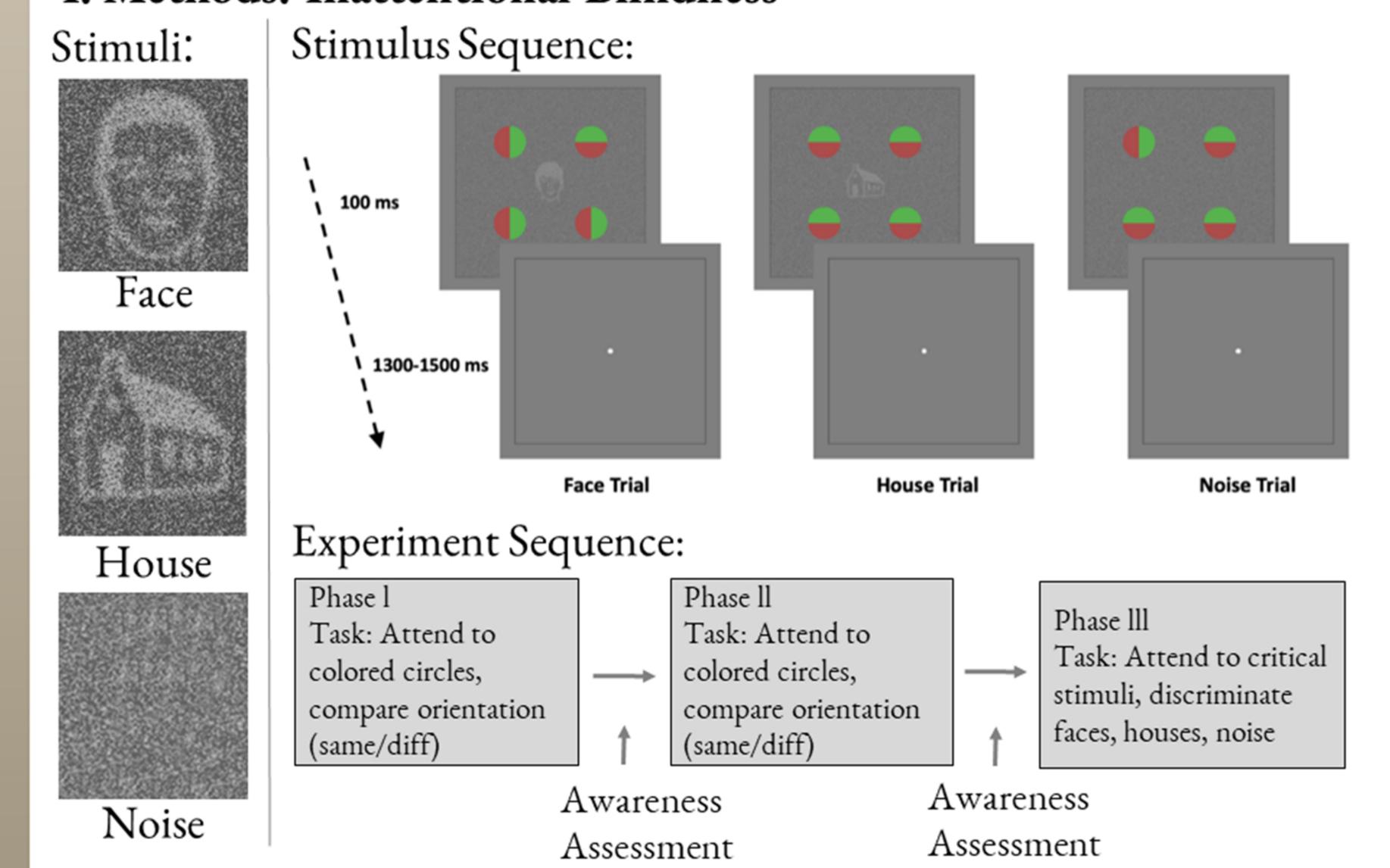
<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Reed College, <sup>2</sup>Sagol School of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv University, <sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, Chapman University

#### Introduction

- NCCs: the minimal set of neuronal events that are jointly sufficient for consciousness
- Our goal is to identify generalized NCCs that consistently appear regardless of the particular experimental manipulation of conscious perception.
- We used three different manipulations in a no-report paradigm to find generalized NCCs [4]:
- I. Inattentional Blindness [1]
- II. Backwards Masking [2]
- III. Dichoptic Color Fusion (see other poster) [3,4]

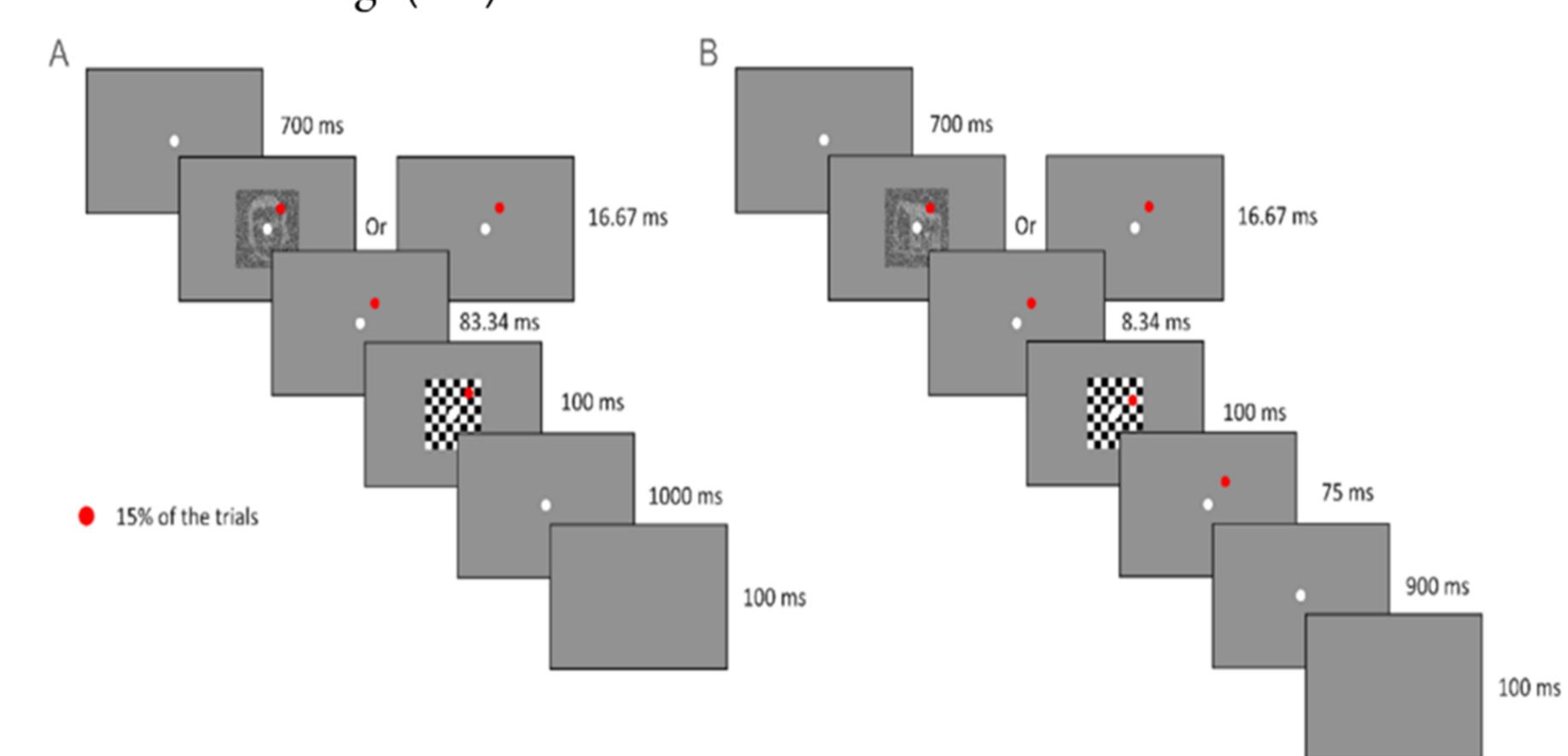
Objective: Identify NCCs in the same subjects, using the same stimulus set, but with three very different manipulations of visual awareness, and compare EEG signals elicited by visible vs. invisible stimuli across the three experiments  $\rightarrow$  triangulation!

### I. Methods: Inattentional Blindness



## II. Methods: Backwards Masking

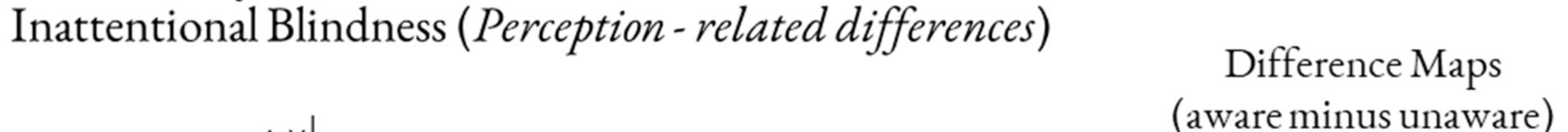
Subjects (N=25) completed 2 experimental tasks: no report (see below) and 2AFC + PAS ratings (1-4)

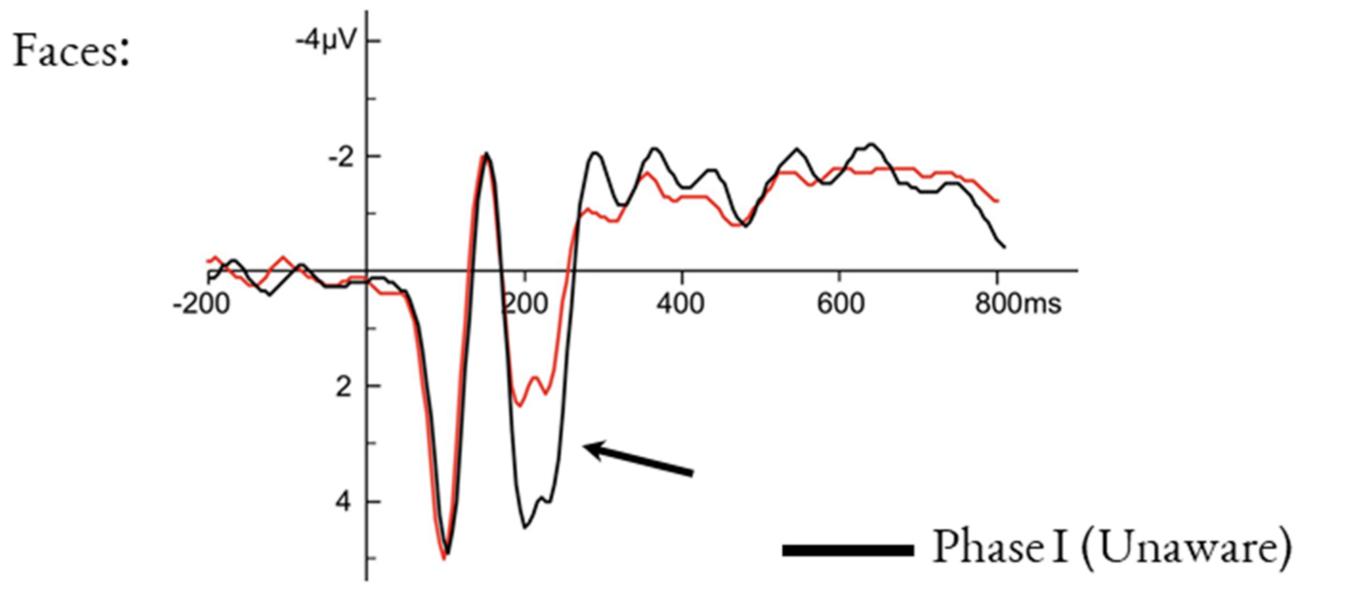


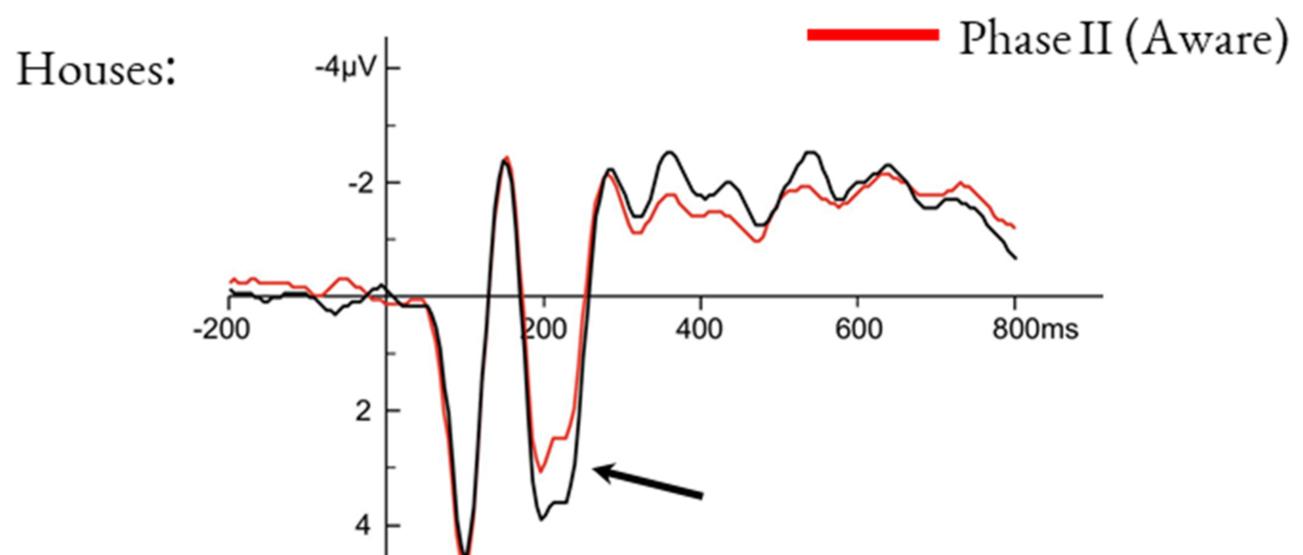
# I. Inattentional Blindness Awareness Assessment Noticer Subjects Inattentionally Blind Subjects

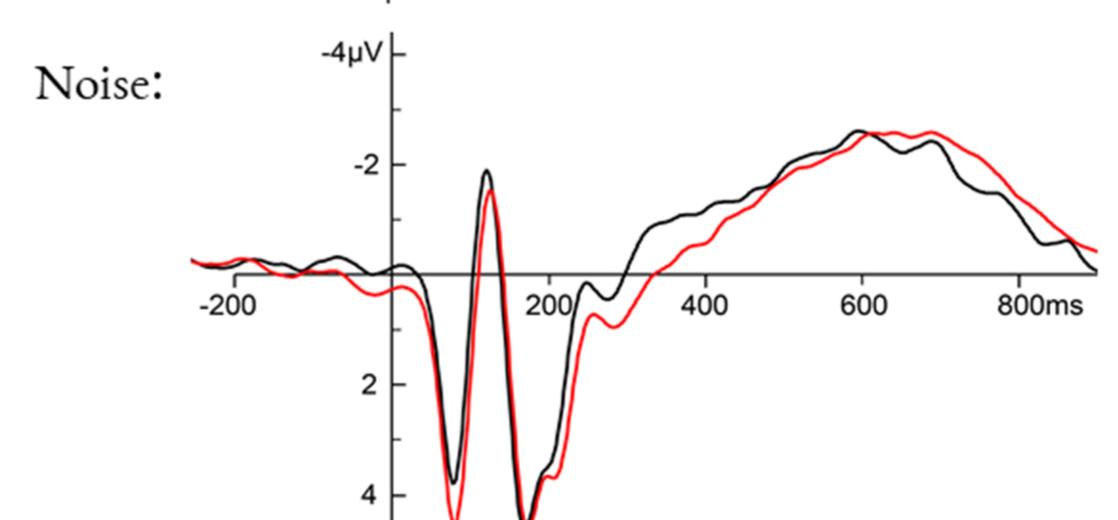
1-5 confidence ratings (1: did not see at all, 5: clearly saw)

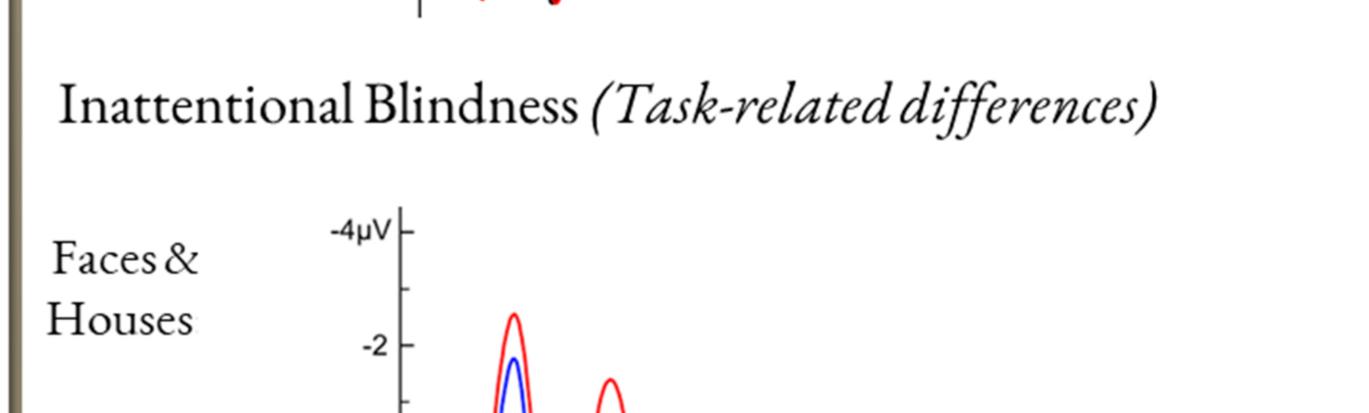
## Preliminary EEG Results



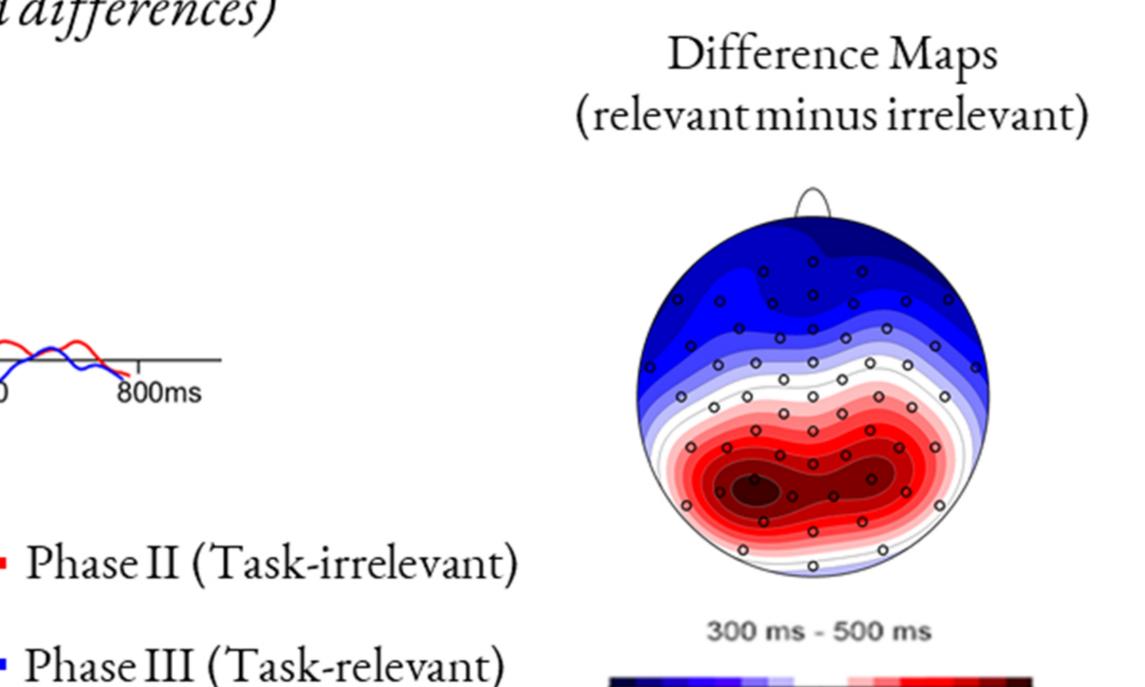






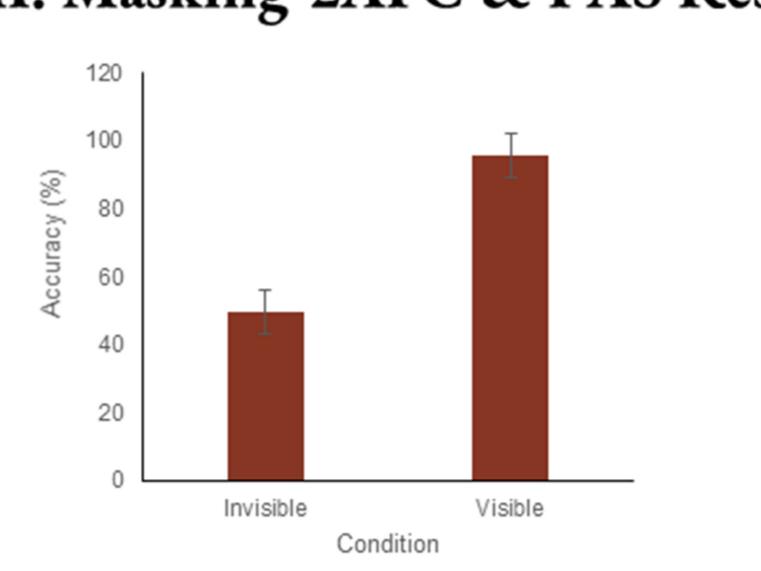


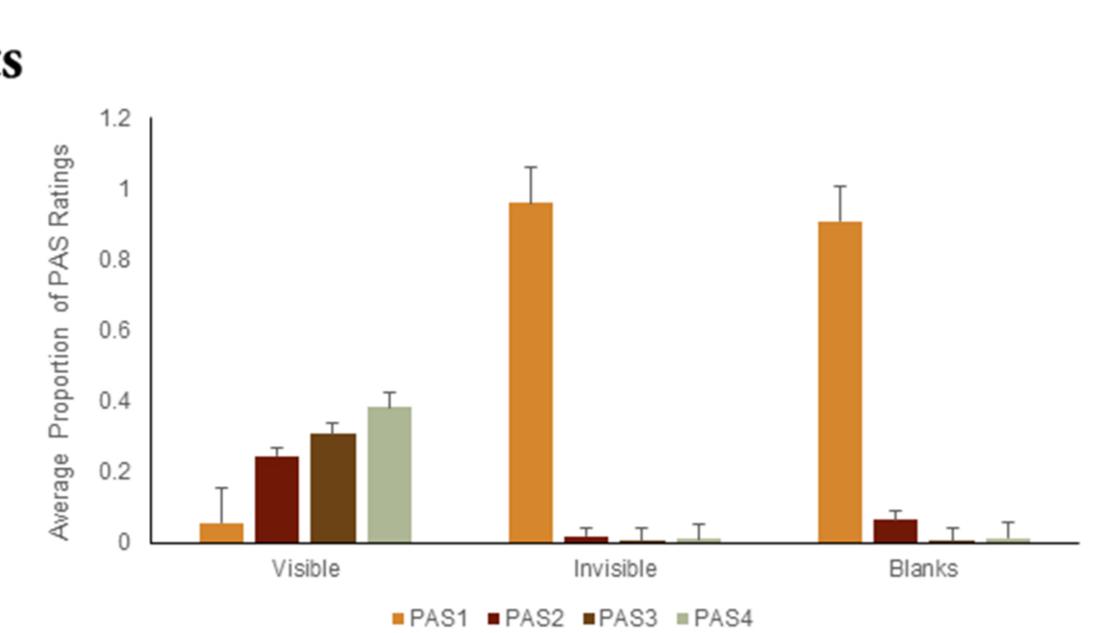
400 600 800ms



170 ms - 250 ms

## II. Masking 2AFC & PAS Results

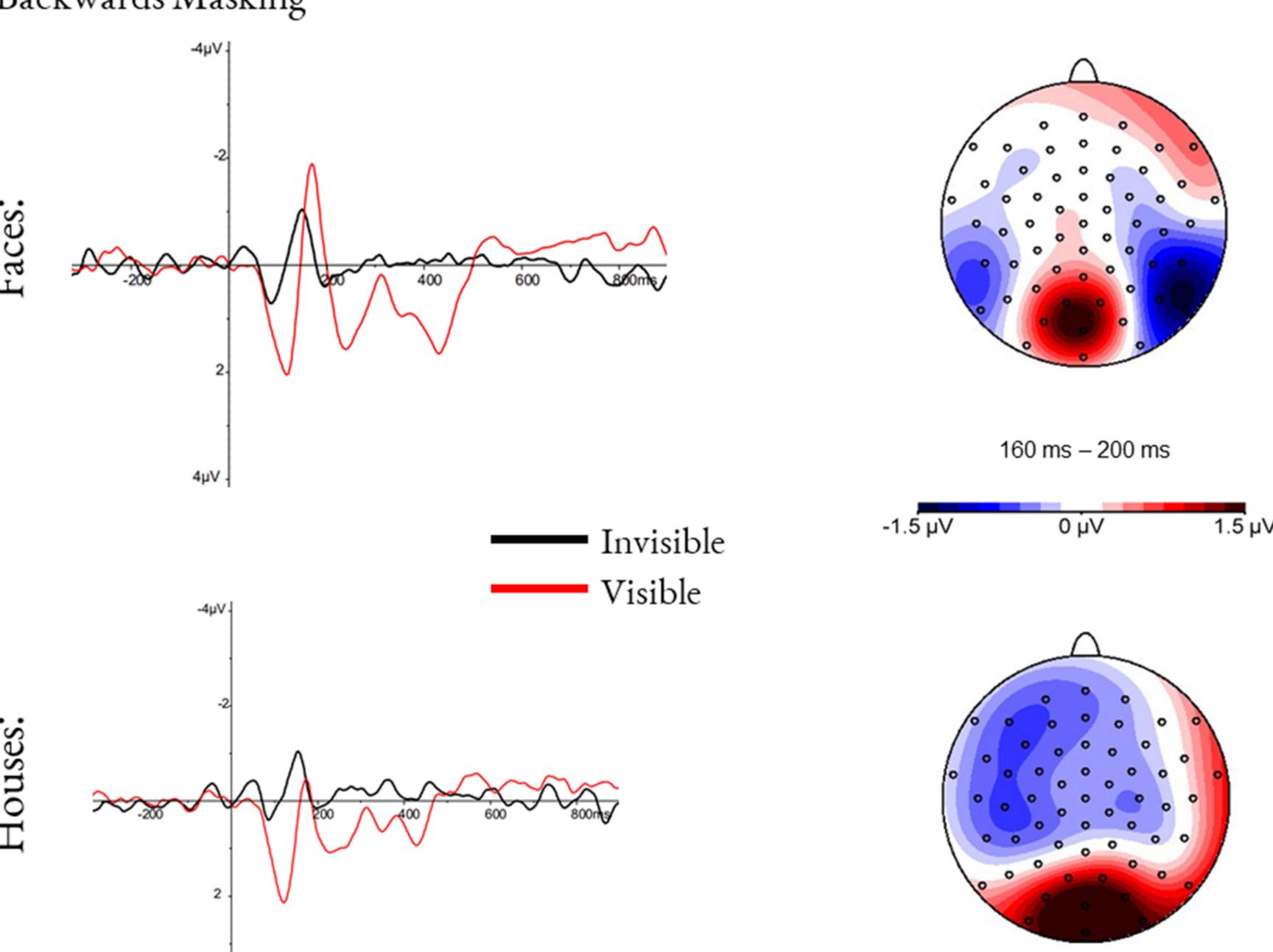




PAS ratings (1-4) in a behavioral control/validation condition

## Preliminary EEG Results





#### Discussion

- Ongoing "triangulation analyses" are aimed at assessing the generalizability/overlap of these NCCs.
- So far, all three experiments appear to show posterior negative-going ERP differences between visible/invisible stimuli, from ~150-250ms, with some variations.
- Spatio-temporal contrast/conjunction maps in the time domain and frequency domain are planned
- Across-experiment multivariate pattern classification will also be exploited.

#### References

- Mack A. & Rock I. (1998). Inattentional Blindness. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Tsuchiya, N., Wilke, M., Frässle, S., & Dr. Lamme, V. A. F. (2015). No-Report Paradigms: Extracting the True Neural Correlates of Consciousness. Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 19(12), 757-770. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2015.10.002
- Moutoussis, K., & Zeki, S. (2002). The relationship between cortical activation and perception investigated with invisible stimuli. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 99(14), 9527-9532
- Schurger, A., Sarigiannidis, I., Naccache, L., Sitt, J. D., & Dehaene, S. (2015). Cortical activity is more stable when sensory stimuli are consciously perceived. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 112(16).
- Dembski, C., Koch, C., & Pitts, M. (2021). Perceptual awareness negativity: A physiological correlate of sensory consciousness. Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 25(8), 660-670.

#### Acknowledgments

This study was supported in part by the "Galakatos science Research Fund," NSF REU, and Templeton World Charity Foundation (grant #: TWCF-2022-30266)