



NIMH Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention

Director – Peter J. Lang, Ph.D.

Media core coordinator - Margaret M. Bradley, Ph.D.

CSEA

PO Box 112766  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Fax 352-392-6047  
<http://www.csea.php.ufl.edu>

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for requesting the International Affective Picture System. The IAPS is to be used exclusively in academic, not-for-profit research. It is expected that the pictures will be used only in basic and health research projects. In accepting these materials, researchers are expected **not** to provide them to profit making companies or organizations. Furthermore, they are expected **not** to make them available to the media (television, magazines, etc.), to publish the pictures (including in scientific journals or any other publication) or to place them on the internet. In addition to copyright and legal concerns, making these materials familiar to the general public can seriously compromise their value as stimuli in many research projects.

The development of a set of affective ratings for pictures is part of an ongoing research program at the NIMH Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention, whose mission includes creating and distributing affective ratings for stimuli for use in studies of emotion and attention. At this time, the IAPS (pronounced EYE-APS) includes over 1000 stimuli.

- When citing the IAPS in published manuscripts, the appropriate citation is:

**Lang, P.J., Bradley, M.M., & Cuthbert, B.N. (2008). *International affective picture system (IAPS): Affective ratings of pictures and instruction manual. Technical Report A-8. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.***

If you should use any of the pictures in your research, it would be helpful if you report the specific IAPS picture numbers of the exemplars used in publications that may result. The purpose of the enterprise is to create a standard that will extend across laboratories, so that other laboratories can replicate and/or extend your research.

The pictures currently in the International Affective Picture System (IAPS) are included in a folder/directory called "Images". Each of these pictures is in JPEG format, labeled by its IAPS catalog number and the .JPG extension (e.g. 1090.JPG). While the dimensions of any specific picture might vary slightly, the maximum size is 1024 x 768 pixels. The pictures have been digitally color-corrected and in some cases reformatted for monitor viewing.

The affective norms (ratings of pleasure, arousal, and dominance) for the pictures currently in the IAPS were obtained in 18 separate studies involving approximately 60 pictures each. The folder/directory called "Data" includes the files containing the normative pleasure, arousal and dominance ratings (means and standard deviations) for the pictures 1) averaged across all subjects, 2) averaged across male subjects and 3) averaged across female subjects. The

files are in tab-delimited ASCII (plain text) format, and can be read by most text editors, graphics packages and statistics packages.

In order to view the image (.JPG) files, you will need software that is able to open and display JPEG files. To view the data files, you will need software that can open and read text files.

Finally, the IAPS is *given specifically for use in your laboratory*. We appreciate your not distributing it to other individuals or laboratories, but instead, please refer interested colleagues to us. We keep a database of users as part of our research, and must monitor IAPS use for grant agency reports. In addition, direct connection assures that all IAPS users can receive updates when additional IAPS materials or new media are added for Center distribution.

Best of luck in your research. We will include findings from other laboratories in future technical reports, and would appreciate it greatly if you could send us preprints or reprints of research you publish which makes use of these materials.

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