

Emotion and action

(Lobach, Erasmus and Hommel)

Description

Traditionally, studies of human emotions focus on the phenomenological aspect of affect, that is, on how it feels to have a particular emotion, whether affects overlap and can be reduced to a limited number of basic affects, and so forth—while the role of emotions for action control has often (though not always) been neglected. Recent insights from neuroscientific investigations of emotion have dramatically changed that picture, however. Approaches by Damasio or Le Doux and colleagues strongly suggest that the emotional significance of stimuli can directly and automatically activate basic behavioral sets and induce particular, context-adaptive response tendencies. We study the conditions under which such tendencies are induced and the mechanisms underlying them.

Financing

Leiden University

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Student Participation

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