Human Emotion

Black Eyed Peas - Where is the Love
Emotions in a Social World?
Human Emotion

Emotions in a Social World

I Feel, You Feel, We Feel?
Roadmap

Course Logistics

Social Function of Emotion

Relationships

Social Emotions (David DeSteno)

Take-Away Qs & Expert Interview
Course Logistics

Exam 1 - Returned

Returned in Class Thursday, Discuss Grading Distribution
Roadmap

Course Logistics

Social Function of Emotion

Relationships

Social Emotions (David DeSteno)

Take-Away Qs & Expert Interview
Emotions in a Social World?
Why are our emotions so social?
EEA Properties
1. Vulnerability of Offspring
2. Monogamous Bonds
3. Emergence of Caring and Compassion
4. Flattening of Social Hierarchy
5. Need for Collective Action
Levels of Analysis
Social Functions of Emotion

Levels of Analysis

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

- **Individual**
- **Dyadic**
- **Group**
- **Cultural**

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

I. Individual Level

- Informs individual about specific social events, to be acted upon or changed.
- Prepare individual to respond to problems or opportunities in social context.
- Involves emotion response system (face, voice, physiology, brain)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

INDIVIDUAL

DYADIC

GROUP

CULTURAL

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

DYADIC

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

II. Dyadic Level

- Help individuals know others’ emotions, beliefs, and intentions, thus coordinating social interactions.
- Evokes complementary and reciprocal emotions in others.
- Serve as incentives or deterrents for another’s social behavior.

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion

“The primary function is to mobilize the organism to deal quickly with important interpersonal encounters.”

- Ekman, 1992, p. 171
Social Functions of Emotion

Intrapersonal

Interpersonal

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Dyadic Interactions: Married Couples

- Criticism
- Contempt
- Defensiveness
- Stonewalling

Gottman, Levenson, & Woodin (2001)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

- Individual
- Dyadic
- Group
- Cultural

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion

Levels of Analysis

III. Group Level

- Define group boundaries
- Foster collective identity
- Negotiate group-related roles and status hierarchy
- Negotiate group-related problems

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

INDIVIDUAL

DYADIC

GROUP

CULTURAL

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion

Levels of Analysis

CULTURAL

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Social Functions of Emotion
Levels of Analysis

IV. Cultural Level
- Help assume cultural identities.
- Motivate culturally-appropriate behavior.
- Transmit social norms and values
- Reify cultural ideologies and power dynamics

Keltner & Haidt (1999)
Roadmap

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Social Function of Emotion

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Take-Away Qs & Expert Interview
Two types of relationships:

Exchange

Communal
Two types of relationships:

**Exchange**

No special responsibility for partner needs. Benefits are given with the expectation of receiving benefits in repayment.
Two types of relationships:

Exchange
No special responsibility for partner needs. Benefits are given with the expectation of receiving benefits in repayment.

Communal
Special responsibility is assumed for a partner. Benefits are given, non-contingently, to support a partner’s welfare.

There is a quantitative dimension to communal relationships.
Infant    Stranger    Friend    Self/Romantic Partner

Communal Strength
Your perception of their care

- Infant
- Stranger
- Friend
- Self/Romantic Partner

Communal Strength
Your perception of their care

Infant         Stranger         Friend        Self/Romantic Partner

Communal Strength
Your perception of their care

Infant         Stranger         Friend        Self/Romantic Partner

We Do Not Expect Care
POSSIBILITY OF EXPLOITATION EXISTS

We Expect Care

Communal Strength
Your perception of their care

Infant | Stranger | Friend | Self/Romantic Partner

Communal Strength

You Should Express Emotions

You Should Suppress Emotions
Theoretical Proposition

People should express more emotion the greater the perceived strength of the communal relationship.
Empirical Test - Study 1

A simple self report study.

Is your relationship communal? How strong?

To what extent do you express each of the following emotions: anger, disgust, fear, hurt, sadness, contentment & happiness?

Empirical Test

42 people rated the communal strength of their relationships with:

- a stranger, their mother, a casual friend, a sister or brother, their boss, their professor, a neighbor, a close friend, a teammate, a classmate, their cousin, a member of their church or temple, their clergy person, a fellow employee, their father, a member of their fraternity/sorority, their roommate.

How far would you be willing to go to visit _____?
How happy to you feel when doing something that helps ____?
How large a benefit would you be likely to give ____?
How large a cost would you incur to meet a need of ___?
How readily can you put the needs of ___ out of your thoughts?
How high a priority for you is meeting the needs of ___?
How reluctant would you be to sacrifice for___?
How much would you be willing to give up to benefit___?
How far would you go out of your way to do something for___?
How easily could you accept not helping ___?
Then they rated the extent to which they would suppress or express different emotions to each person:
Empirical Test - Study 2

A study of marriages involving both partners
Empirical Test - Study 2

108 married couples.

Both husbands and wives were asked

…the extent to which their spouse followed communal norms

…the extent to which they expressed fear, sadness, and happiness to their spouse.

…the extent to which they expressed these emotions to others.
Empirical Test - Study 2

Predicting emotion expression from perceptions of spouse following communal norms in one’s marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emotion</th>
<th>Express to Spouse</th>
<th></th>
<th>Express to Others</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>+.21 p &lt;.01</td>
<td></td>
<td>+.05</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadness</td>
<td>+.15 p &lt;.05</td>
<td></td>
<td>-.04</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happiness</td>
<td>+.18 p &lt;.02</td>
<td></td>
<td>+.14</td>
<td>NS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Roadmap

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Relationships

Social Emotions (David DeSteno)

Take-Away Qs & Expert Interview
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Social Function of Emotion

Relationships

Social Emotions (David DeSteno)

Take-Away Qs & Expert Interview
Experts In Emotion

*EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY*
Expert Interview

Dr. David DeSteno
Professor of Psychology
Northeastern University

Emotions and Social Interaction