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Emotions through the eyes of our closest living relatives: exploring attentional and behavioral mechanisms

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Curriculum Vitae

Curriculum Vitae

Evy van Berlo was born in 1990 in Maastricht and graduated from high school Porta Mosana in Maastricht in 2008. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at the Erasmus University Rotterdam (2009 – 2012), after completing the *Brain and Cognition* track. She continued with a Research Master of Science degree in Cognitive Neuroscience at Utrecht University (2012 – 2016). It was during this time she discovered the work of Dutch primatologist Prof. dr. Liesbeth Sterck and subsequently Prof. dr. Frans de Waal, which inspired her to pursue a career in comparative psychology and specialize in primate behavior and cognition.

For her first Master's project, Evy investigated the social dynamics within a group of long-tailed macaques during the introduction of a new alpha male[1]. During this time, she became familiar with behavioral observation methods commonly used in Biology, and learned a great deal about primate cognition and behavior. For her second Master's project, she studied the function of yawning in bonobos housed at primate park Apenheul[2]. To conduct this project, she acquired funding from the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA). For her final Master's project, she wrote a research proposal on measuring an attentional bias for emotions of familiar and unfamiliar others in bonobos[3]. With the invaluable help from Prof. dr. Mariska E. Kret, Evy could continue her research work in pursuance of a Doctoral degree in comparative psychology.

Evy conducted her Ph.D. research at the Cognitive Psychology Unit of the Institute of Psychology (Leiden University, 2016 – 2021) and Apenheul under the supervision of Prof. dr. Kret, and later also Dr. Yena Kim. During this time, she completed eight studies of which six are part of her Doctoral degree and described in this dissertation. In collaboration with Prof. dr. Kret, Evy set up two new research facilities at Apenheul, introducing eye-tracking to bonobos and touchscreen-based research to orangutans[4]. To make comparisons with humans possible and engage the general public in research, she also realized a research setup to test (human) visitors of Apenheul. Furthermore, half-way through her first year of the Ph.D., she conducted a 3-month study on stress and (contagious) yawning in wild chimpanzees in Rwanda, Africa[5]. Moreover, Evy was involved in teaching several courses at Leiden University and supervised many Bachelor and Master students who helped her collect data with the visitors of Apenheul. Due to health problems, Evy was required to take a hiatus in 2019. With the support of her fantastic colleagues and friends, she was able to hand in the dissertation you now have before you.

After her Ph.D., Evy brought together an interdisciplinary team of scientists to study social decision-making in chimpanzees and humans using VR technology as part of a postdoctoral project. Together with her team[6], she acquired funding from the University of Amsterdam (Amsterdam Brain and Cognition) and the Dr. J. C. Dobberke Stichting voor Vergelijkende Psychologie to make this project a reality.

[1] Supervision: Prof. Dr. Liesbeth H. M. Sterck, dr. Marie-José H. M. Duchateau, and Lisette van den Berg, M.Sc., Utrecht University

[2] Supervision: Prof. Dr. Mariska E. Kret, University of Amsterdam and Leiden University; Dr. Jorg J. M. Massen, University of Vienna.

[3] Supervision: Prof. dr. Kret and Prof. dr. Frans B. M. de Waal, Emory University and Utrecht University.

[4] To do so, she acquired funding from the Dr. J. C. Dobberke Stichting voor Vergelijkende Psychologie, and the Stichting Elize Mathilde Fonds (Leiden University Fund, in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Kret).

[5] Made possible with the invaluable help of two research assistants (Daan W. Laméris, M.Sc. and Berta Roura Torres, M.Sc.) and funding from the KNAW Ecology grant (Kret & van Berlo) and Stichting Het Kronendak (Laméris & van Berlo). In collaboration with Prof. dr. Kret, Prof. Dr. Karline R. L. Janmaat (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology), Dr. Aaron Rundus, and Dr. Rebecca Chancellor (West Chester University)

[6] Team: Prof. Dr. Janmaat, Dr. Jan Engelmann and Dr. Jan Hausfeld, and Dr. Lucas Molleman (University of Amsterdam)

List of publications

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Published work

Mendoza-Straffon, L. M., Agnew, G., Desch-Bailey, C., Van Berlo, E., Goclowska, G., & Kret, M. E. (2022). Visual attention bias for self-made artworks.
Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts (*in press*).

Kret, M. E., & Van Berlo, E. (2021). Attentional Bias in Humans Toward Human and Bonobo Expressions of Emotion. *Evolutionary Psychology, 19*(3), 14747049211032816.

Van Berlo, E., Díaz-Loyo, A. P., Juárez-Mora, O. E., Kret, M. E., & Massen, J. J. (2020). Experimental evidence for yawn contagion in orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*).
Scientific reports, 10(1), 1-11.

Laméris, D. W., Van Berlo, E., Sterck, E. H. M., Bionda, T., & Kret, M. E. (2020). Low relationship quality predicts scratch contagion during tense situations in orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*).
American Journal of Primatology, e23138.

Work submitted for publication

Van Berlo, E.*, Laméris, D. W.*, Roth, T. S., & Kret, M. E. (2022). No evidence for biased attention towards emotional scenes in Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*).
Manuscript submitted to Affective Science.
** Authors equally contributed to the paper*

Van Berlo, E., Kim, Y., & Kret, M. E. (2022). Attentional selectivity for emotions: humans and bonobos compared.
Manuscript submitted to Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.

Van Berlo, E., Bionda, T., & Kret. M. E. (2020). Attention towards emotions is modulated by familiarity with the expressor. A comparison between bonobos and humans.
Manuscript submitted to Emotion.

Van Berlo, E., Otten, M., Binnekamp, J., Roth, T. S., Van der Ven, E., Kret, M. E. (2020). Measuring implicit associations with a Pictorial IAT: Implications for comparative research.
Manuscript submitted to Humanities and Social Sciences Communications.

Work in preparation

Van Berlo, E., Roth, T. S., Samara, I., Kret, M. E., & Massen, J. J. M. (2022). Yawn and self-scratch contagion in bonobos.

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