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

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Emotions through the eyes of our closest living relatives:

Exploring attentional and behavioral mechanisms

door Evy van Berlo

1. Comparative scientists studying the attentional mechanisms underlying emotion perception should consider species-specific (social) characteristics as well as contextual factors in their research because these factors can shape how attention is directed.

2. Research on attention for emotional expressions would benefit from diving deeper into emotional expressions' valence (i.e., positive or negative) dimension.

3. To progress our understanding of emotion contagion and its potential link to contagious yawning and self-scratching, research should include animals living in different social structures ranging from solitary animals to animals living in small or large social groups.

4. Studying implicit biases towards emotional expressions, for instance through the PIAT, can reveal how great apes view facial and bodily expressions of emotion in terms of valence.

5. The view that the social and cognitive abilities of humans are the most sophisticated examples in the animal kingdom, stands in the way of moving the field of psychology forward.

6. Generally regarded as distinct scientific fields, psychology and biology often study similar concepts, thus would benefit greatly from a more unified approach.

7. Although I have focused on emotional expressions in the visual modality, the comparative science of emotions should also include expressions in other modalities such as the auditory modality.

8. Research on emotions (including perception, recognition, and experience of emotions) in animals will, in its progress, revolutionize our understanding of consciousness.

9. Studying affective processes for your doctoral degree inevitably goes hand in hand with experiencing a rollercoaster of emotions.

10. In the face of hardships, we must keep reminding ourselves that science is fundamentally a collaborative process rather than a competitive one.