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Resonating emotions: an embodied perspective on alterations in facial emotion processing in autism and social anxiety

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Resonating emotions:

An embodied perspective on alterations in facial emotion processing in autism and social anxiety

door Julia Folz

1. Research on altered facial emotion processing in autism should investigate the physiological resonance and the interpretation of expressions in an integrated fashion.
2. In order to better understand how physiological arousal affects facial emotion processing in social anxiety, studies should be conducted in real social settings.
3. As affiliative signal, facial displays of happiness strongly and consistently resonate in observers. To understand individual differences in their processing, more variation within this category should be considered in research.
4. Different types of information, such as mental representations or embodied simulations, can inform facial emotion perception. A perspective which embraces this diversity can tune research to better understand the source of difficulties in interpreting facial emotions.
5. Experimental design choices, such as task order or instructions, may influence spontaneous facial emotion processing. To obtain higher ecological validity, researchers should be aware of and minimize those influences.
6. Emotion processing relies on multiple different dimensions of interoception in different modalities. Research on altered (facial) emotion perception should thus consider alterations in sensing, interpreting, integrating and regulating various internal signals.
7. Real social interaction partners differ from pre-recorded stimuli in their expressive and responsive behaviour, as well as in their mere presence. These factors likely bias the description of (alterations in) perceiving and responding to others' emotions.
8. The dynamics of interpersonal processes are highly complex and difficult to capture. Analytic approaches should consider biological plausibility, feasibility as well as the nature of the data at hand.
9. If an interesting topic is what motivates you to start a PhD, a supportive team is what makes you stay on the journey, despite all challenges.
10. A playful approach makes everything in life, also a PhD, a lot more enjoyable. By allowing yourself to experiment and make mistakes, you open yourself up to opportunities and valuable learning experiences.
11. Presenting your work to others and giving feedback on theirs is not about proving yourself. It is about inspiring each other to take a different perspective, which fosters both personal growth and scientific progress.
12. A PhD journey reflects advances in science on a small scale. At each stage, topics are approached to the best of the existing knowledge.