



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

The social consequences of empathic and counter-empathic emotions: contextual influences on social perception and evaluation

Feng, R.

Citation

Feng, R. (2026, May 26). *The social consequences of empathic and counter-empathic emotions: contextual influences on social perception and evaluation*. *Dissertatiereeks Kurt Lewin Instituut*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4304026>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4304026>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Propositions

The Social Consequences of Empathic and Counter-Empathic Emotions: Contextual Influences on Social Perception and Evaluation

Roujia Feng

1. Accurately interpreting others' emotion expressions requires sensitivity to the context in which these are expressed.
2. A single emotion expression signals different social meanings when perceived as empathic versus counter-empathic, influencing trait inferences and expectations about the expresser's behavior.
3. Observers quickly infer stable personal characteristics from momentary emotion expressions, frequently extending well beyond the information those expressions provide.
4. Expressing emphatic versus counter-empathic emotions shape social perception: they not only guide trait and behavioral inferences, but also influence how attractive the expresser is perceived to be.
5. Replicating studies is not a luxury, but a necessary condition for reliable knowledge development.
6. Preregistration enhances the transparency and credibility of research without constraining scientific creativity, serving not as an administrative burden but as a methodological tool for strengthening theoretical claims.
7. Emotion research is fascinating because, even as people try to control their emotions, those emotions powerfully shape everyday thought and behavior.
8. Academic research demands patience and a steady focus on the present, an investment that, over time, proves richly rewarding.
9. Emotions in interpersonal interactions are complex and layered, calling upon an ability to navigate moral ambiguity, foster reflective dialogue, and act responsibly in a pluralistic world.
10. Science thrives on intellectual diversity, and restricting international students for short-term financial or political reasons threatens the quality, credibility, and long-term societal value of academia.