



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands

Understanding enthusiasm: structure, function, and social regulation

Vogelaar, M.

Citation

Vogelaar, M. (2026, May 27). *Understanding enthusiasm: structure, function, and social regulation*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4304380>

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/1887/4304380>

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

Understanding Enthusiasm

Structure, Function, and Social Regulation

Rijn Vogelaar

© 2026 Rijn Vogelaar

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.

ISBN/EAN: 978-90-829399-5-8

Cover illustration: Adapted from a photograph by Jade Masri (Unsplash)

Printed by: Scanlaser B.V.

Printed in the Netherlands

Understanding Enthusiasm
Structure, Function, and Social Regulation

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van

de graad van doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,

op gezag van rector magnificus prof.dr. S. de Rijcke,

volgens besluit van het college voor promoties

te verdedigen op

woensdag 27-05-2026

klokke 13 uur

door

Marijn Vogelaar

geboren te Steenberg

in 1969

Promotor: Prof.dr. Wilco van Dijk

Promotor: Prof.dr. Eric van Dijk

Promotiecommissie:

Prof.dr. B.A. Barendregt (Decaan Graduate School, voorzitter)

Prof.dr. A. H. Fischer (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Prof.dr. L. F. van Dillen

Prof.dr. D. Scheepers

Dr. R. Nelissen (Tilburg University)

The idea of the good, with affect, is called enthusiasm. This state of mind seems to be sublime, so much so that it is commonly maintained that without it nothing great can be accomplished.

Immanuel Kant

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1	11
INTRODUCTION	11
A SPARK OF ENTHUSIASM: FROM FIELD EXPERIENCE TO ACADEMIC INQUIRY	12
ENTHUSIASM THROUGH THE AGES	15
<i>From divine inspiration to philosophical suspicion</i>	15
<i>Enthusiasm as divine madness in ancient Greece</i>	15
<i>The Enlightenment's wariness</i>	16
<i>Kant and Hegel: Enthusiasm between reason and progress</i>	17
<i>Romantic revival: Enthusiasm as creative and emotional vitality</i>	19
<i>Modern philosophy and enthusiasm: Neglect and critical suspicion</i>	19
EMPIRICAL FOUNDATIONS: MAPPING THE STUDY OF ENTHUSIASM	20
<i>Empirical evidence from physiological and cognitive research</i>	21
<i>Empirical evidence from education</i>	22
<i>Empirical evidence from leadership and organizational contexts</i>	24
<i>Empirical evidence from consumer behavior</i>	26
<i>Empirical evidence from political behavior and policy processes</i>	27
<i>Why enthusiasm matters: Implications for education, business, and society</i>	28
AIM AND SCOPE: ADDRESSING UNRESOLVED ISSUES AND RESEARCH GAPS	29
OVERVIEW OF THE REMAINING CHAPTERS	31
<i>Chapter 2: The internal structure of enthusiasm</i>	31
<i>Chapter 3: The appraisal patterns and response types of enthusiasm</i>	32
<i>Chapter 4: The appropriateness and experience of enthusiasm</i>	32
<i>Chapter 5: Discussion</i>	33
CHAPTER 2	35
THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF ENTHUSIASM	35
ABSTRACT	36
INTRODUCTION	37
PROTOTYPE ANALYSIS	40
SECTION 1: IDENTIFYING THE CENTRAL FEATURES OF ENTHUSIASM.....	42

Study 1.1: Generating features of enthusiasm	43
Study 1.2: Centrality ratings	45
SECTION 2: VALIDATING THE ENTHUSIASM PROTOTYPE	48
Study 2.1: Recall test	48
Study 2.2: Classification and verification speed	51
Study 2.3: Autobiographical recall	52
Relationship between different measures	54
DISCUSSION	56
APPENDIX A	61
CHAPTER 3	63
THE APPRAISAL PATTERNS AND RESPONSE TYPES OF ENTHUSIASM	63
ABSTRACT	64
INTRODUCTION	65
Study 1	71
Study 2	80
DISCUSSION	89
CHAPTER 4	95
THE APPROPRIATENESS AND EXPERIENCE OF ENTHUSIASM	95
ABSTRACT	96
INTRODUCTION	97
The present research	99
DISCUSSION	109
CHAPTER 5	115
DISCUSSION	115
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS	117
<i>Chapter 2: What is the structure of enthusiasm?</i>	117
<i>Chapter 3: What is the profile and distinctiveness of enthusiasm?</i>	118
<i>Chapter 4: Social norms and the experience of enthusiasm</i>	120
CONCEPTUAL AND PRACTICAL REFLECTIONS	121
<i>Towards a working definition of enthusiasm</i>	122
<i>Enthusiasm in contemporary emotion theory</i>	123

<i>The function of enthusiasm</i>	124
<i>The social dimension of enthusiasm</i>	126
<i>Is enthusiasm good or bad?</i>	127
<i>Practical implications: Applying insights on enthusiasm</i>	129
<i>Conclusion</i>	131
SUMMARY	133
SAMENVATTING	139
REFERENCES	145
DANKWOORD	161
CURRICULUM VITAE	163