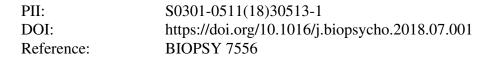
# Accepted Manuscript

Title: Putting a good face on touch: Facial expression reflects the affective valence of caress-like touch across modalities

Authors: Leah M. Mayo, Johan Lindé, Håkan Olausson, Markus Heilig, India Morrison



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# ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# FACIAL EMG RESPONSES TO AFFECTIVE TOUCH

# Putting a good face on touch: Facial expression reflects the affective valence of caress-like touch across modalities

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# Highlights

- Socially-relevant, caress-like touch is rated as hedonically pleasant
- This type of touch also attenuates negative facial expressions assessed vial facial electromyography
- Responses to touch are supra-modal; they are evident in response to physical stimulation or the observation of touch

# Abstract

Touch plays a central role in interpersonal behavior, especially in its capacity to convey—and induce— changes in affect. Previous research has established that slow, caress-like stroking over the skin elicits positive subjective affective responses, with higher ratings of "pleasantness" compared to a faster-moving touch stimulus. Ratings of pleasantness are associated with increased activity of a distinct class of nerve fibers: C-tactile (CT) afferents. Here, we used facial electromyography (EMG) to determine if touch that optimally activates CT afferents also influences facial muscle activity believed to reflect changes in affect. We found that less pleasant, fast-moving stroking (30 cm/s) Download English Version:

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