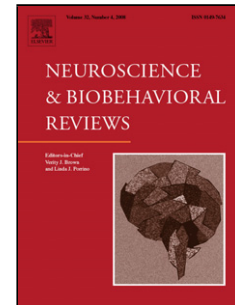


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Rethinking primate facial expression: A predictive framework

Highlights

- The study of facial expression is dominated by an emotional approach
- We propose an alternative predictive framework for the study of facial expression
- Facial expressions are conceptualised as indicators of the actors' likely future behaviour
- We discuss the implications of this approach for cognitive mechanisms, neurobiology and evolution

Rethinking primate facial expression: A predictive framework

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Primate facial expression has long been studied within a framework of emotion that has heavily influenced both theoretical approaches and scientific methods. For example, our understanding of the adaptive function and cognition of facial expression is tied to the assumption that facial expression is accompanied by an emotional internal state, which is decipherable by others. Here, we challenge this view and propose that facial expression should also be conceptualized as an indicator of future behavior as opposed to current emotional state alone. We also advocate the use of standardized, objective methodology (FACS) to avoid making assumptions about the underlying emotional state of animals producing facial expressions. We argue that broadening our approach to facial expression in

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