



# EMOTION IN THE HUMAN FACE

**GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH AND AN INTEGRATION OF FINDINGS**

**By Paul Ekman, Wallace V. Friesen and Phoebe Ellsworth**

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*To:*

*Robert Berryman  
Gordon F. Derner  
Robert E. Harris  
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# ***Contents***

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	1
<b>Part One: Conceptual Ambiguities</b>	<b>7</b>
I What Do We Mean by “Emotion”?	11
II How Do We Determine whether Judgments of Emotion Are Accurate?	15
III What Does Establishing Generality Entail?	21
IV Can Facial Behavior Be Controlled or Disguised?	23
V Can Two or More Emotions Be Shown Simultaneously?	25
<i>Review Part One: Conceptual Ambiguities</i>	27
<b>Part Two: Methodological Decisions</b>	<b>29</b>
VI Selecting a Research Design	31
VII Choosing the Eliciting Circumstance	35
VIII Sampling Persons	39
IX Sampling Behavior from a Record	41
X Sampling Emotions	43
XI Sampling Emotion Words, Categories, or Dimensions in Judgment Studies	45
XII Choosing a Method of Recording	49
<i>Review Part Two: Methodological Decisions</i>	53
<b>Part Three: Research Findings</b>	<b>55</b>
XIII What Emotion Categories Can Observers Judge from Facial Behavior?	57
XIV What Emotion Dimensions Can Observers Judge from Facial Behavior?	67



XV	Can Judgments of Emotion from Facial Behavior Be Accurate?	77
XVI	Can Measurement of the Components of Facial Behavior Provide Accurate Information?	109
XVII	Are Components of Facial Behavior Related to Observers' Judgments of Emotion?	121
XVIII	What Is the Relative Contribution of Facial Behavior and Contextual Information to the Judgment of Emotion?	135
XIX	What Are the Similarities and Differences in Facial Behavior across Cultures?	153
<b>Part Four: Final Considerations</b>		169
XX	Research in Progress and Implications for Theory	171
XXI	Conclusion	175
Bibliography		181
Author Index		189

## *Preface*

Our aim in this book is to integrate knowledge about the face and emotion, describing what we know, indicating what we need to know, and providing some guidelines for study of this complicated but intriguing phenomenon. We have both students and researchers in mind as the readers—students not only of psychology, but of anthropology, ethology, sociology, and biology. Although some may be engaged with questions other than those raised here, they nevertheless may profit from knowing the answers to many of the psychological questions which have been asked about the face and emotion; and some of the methods of study might well be appropriate to their own interests in the face. The book should also be useful to students who are not primarily interested in the face and emotion, but who can gain through this book a better appreciation of how a field of behavioral science progresses—the problems, the mistakes—and how experiments conducted over five decades fit together. There is excitement, at least for the writers, as answers emerge.

The second intended audience consists of those planning or already conducting research on the face. While research on the face and emotion was quiescent for some years, in the last few years many new investigators have turned to this topic. This book should provide current information, integrating experiments conducted over a long period of time. Some of the conceptual ambiguities that have hindered research and the methodological decisions which must be made in planning research on the face and emotion are discussed. How past investigators handled these matters is presented critically, and a set of standards is offered, which should at least provoke thought and at best provide guidelines for research.

Our hope is that the reader will be better able to profit from the past and avoid asking questions that have actually already been answered, alerted to the methodological pitfalls into which others have fallen and sensitive to some of the new challenging questions which can be asked. Most of the research analyzed in this book has already been published. But important new findings are reported for the first time and integrated with the past results.

Although we stopped gathering material in the Summer of 1970, the information covered in a number of instances is a few years ahead of scientific publication.

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