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*An Analysis of the Coherence Between Experiential and Behavioral Emotional Response During Ambiguous Emotional Stimuli*. Preliminary report.

In 1971, Paul Ekman published that the six basic emotions (anger, happiness, surprise, disgust, sadness, and fear) have distinct, universal facial expressions. Past studies confirm that high levels of coherence exist between emotional experience and facial expression when subjects are shown poignant film clips. But what happens to the tie between emotional experience and facial response when the eliciting event isn't purely of one sentiment? In this study, data collected from video recordings of individuals watching ambivalent film clips are used to examine the relationship between emotional experience and facial response when mixed emotion is elicited. Cross-correlations between data sources measuring positive and negative emotional response indicate low to moderate amounts of coherence between response systems. Contributors to coherence are being investigated, including the degree to which emotion is "mixed" at a given time, individual personality characteristics, and attitude toward various emotions. Furthering the understanding of response coherence and mixed feelings will shed light on various psychiatric disorders, where emotional dysfunction skews the normal emotional experience and response. (Received September 13, 2014)