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MASTER MEIM 2022

## **Emotions**

Luca Fusco, Ph.D

Tutor Master MEIM, Clinical and Career Psychologist



















#### Exercise n.1

- A) You hear two friends of yours saying bad things about you in a party
- B) Your teacher yells at you beacause you made a mistake in a test
- C) A person you're attracted to tells you that you are pretty
- D) You score a goal in a soccer match
- E) You see an explicit splatter (horror) scene in a movie
- F) You see an old man beg for alm in the street (ask for money)
- G) Your best friend invites you and buys your favorite food for you









## **Emotions at work?**











#### JOY

# DISGUST

**FEAR** 

**SADNESS** 









#### **PRIMARY EMOTIONS**

#### **SECONDARY EMOTIONS**

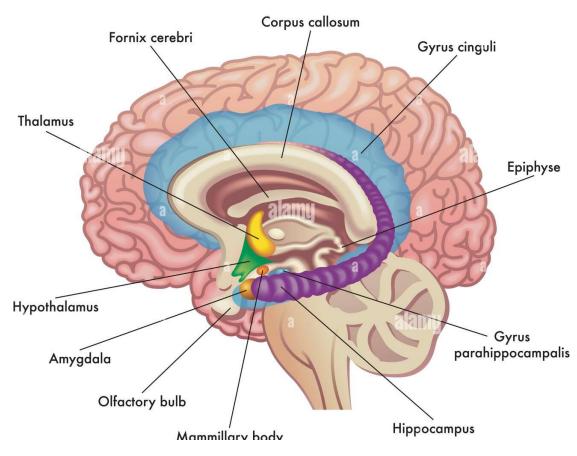
#### **FEELINGS**

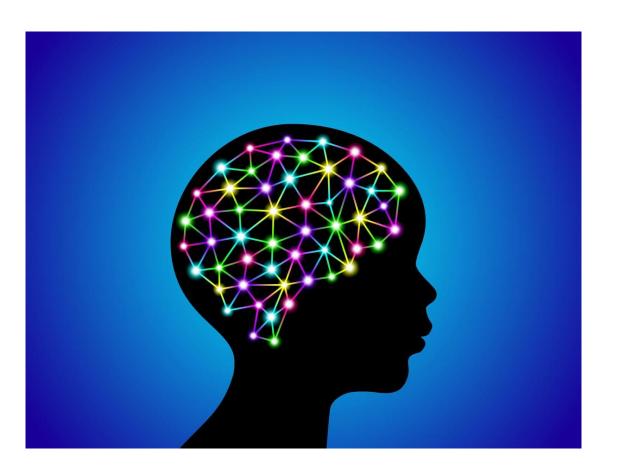






#### THE LIMBIC SYSTEM













#### Exercise n. 2

# Write down a description of an emotional experience that you had:

- What elicited your emotions?
- Which emotions/feelings did you feel?
- How did you understand what you were feeling?
- How did you express your emotions?



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## How do you recognize an emotion?









## **Theories on emotions:**

- 1) Charles Darwin
- 2) James-Lange
- 3) Cannon-Bard
- 4) Schacter-Singer

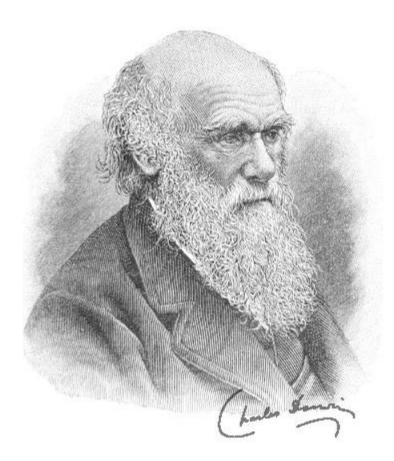








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#### James-Lange Theory

Physical reaction to an event



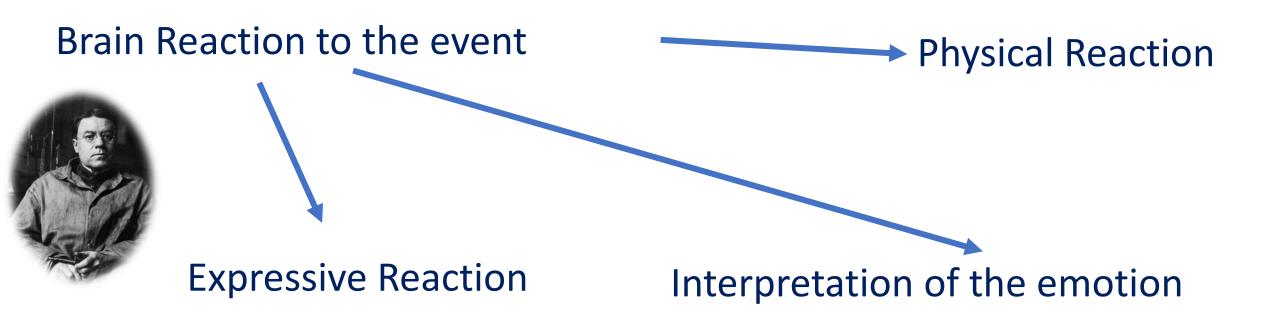
#### Interpretation of the emotion







#### **Cannon-Bard Theory**





Situation





#### Schacter-Singer theory

#### Physical reaction to an event



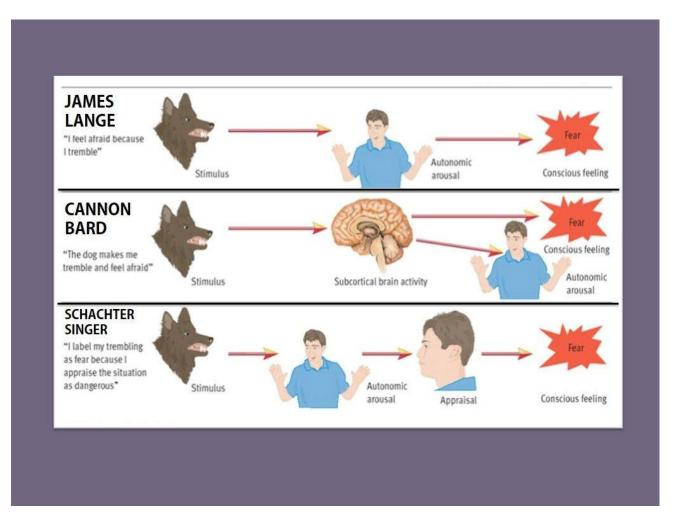




















## Phenomenological approach

Essential elements of emotions:

- Body experience
  - Meaning
  - Social Value
  - Expression
  - Authomatism

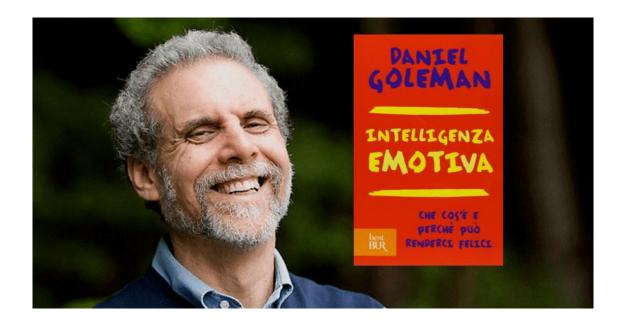








## **Emotional intelligence**











## **Emotional intelligence**

- Self-awareness: understanding personal emotions
- Self-control: using personal emotions with a scope
- Self-motivation: understanding the true reasons of our behaviors
  - Empathy: the ability of feeling the others
  - Social ability: the ability of standing next to other people, understanding their relationships







#### **Emotional competence (Saarni, 1990)**

- Reading others' emotions and feelings
- Regulating personal emotion and feelings









## Improve your emotional ability...

#### Ask:

- What do I feel? Describe emotions and feelings in detailed manners.
- Why did I do that? Clarify your motivations for your actions.
- What are they thinking? What are they feeling? Guess their emotions.
- What do you feel? Ask others about their feelings. Start to learn how they think and feel.









## Improve your emotional ability...

Change your way of speaking (and thinking!):

- Use more the «I» pronoun, speak less about facts to express your emotions.
- Be detailed! Add as more information as you can to describe your feelings.

Example: «He's an \*\*\*»  $\rightarrow$  «I'm angry with him»  $\rightarrow$  «I felt disappointed beacause of his behavior that I expected to be different in that particular situation. I was emotionally aroused by this disappoinment and now I feel anger towards him.»







## EMPATHY

«The ability to identify with another person until being able to get her/his thoughts and affective states.»

«An affective sharing, the ability of accepting the other's point of view, even when this is not shared by the subject»



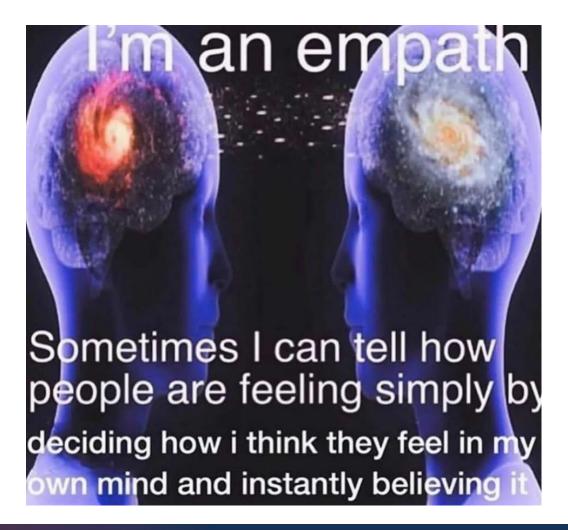






## EMPATHY vs Explanation

Ability to understand the others, seeing their inner world (Jaspers, 1919), based on the fact the we share a common world.











## **Empathy development (Hoffman)**

STAGE 0: Emotional contagiousSTAGE 1: Egocentric empathySTAGE 2: Almost egocentirc empathySTAGE 3: True empathySTAGE 4: Existential empathy











### Take home messages:

- 1) Our life is intrinsically emotional, don't underestimate it
- 2) Emotional abilities and empathy can be trained
- 3) Don't overestimate your empathy