

Human Facial Expression: An Evolutionary View

By Alan J. Fridlund





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This unique book provides an integrated view of human facial expressions based on contemporary knowledge about the evolution of signaling across the animal kingdom. Spanning fields that range from psychology and neurology to anthropology and linguistics, it reopens and discusses some of the classic questions in the field, including: What do facial expressions express? What are the relations between facial expressions and our motives and emotions? How did our facial expressions evolve? Are there really innate and universal facial expressions?

Human Facial Expression is suitable for graduate and advanced undergraduate use as a text or course supplement. Chapters on the history of interpreting facial expressions, and on Darwin's contributions, set the stage for a thorough discussion of modern evolutionary theory and the biological, cultural, and developmental origins of our facial expressions. The incorporation of recent findings on the syntactics and semantics of animal signaling show the fundamental link of human facial expressions to vocalization and language.

- Coverage includes methodology in evolutionary research
- Introductory discussion of facial nerves and muscles
- Compares and contrasts emotion vs. behavioral ecology views of facial expressions
- Cross-cultural analysis of similarities and differences in facial expressions
- Reviews paralanguage and gesture

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Human Facial Expression: An Evolutionary View By Alan J. Fridlund Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2529380 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-03-27
- Released on: 2014-03-27
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

"...an excellent advanced text. It includes an astute discussion of Darwin's work on emotional facial expression and how it is often misunderstood, an in-depth consideration of the implications of contemporary evolutionary theory for understanding facial expression, and basic information about the neuropsychology of the face... thorough and accessible... difficult points are often clarified and extended through the effective use of footnotes and figures.

Beyond serving as the main text for courses on facial expression, I believe the volume is suitable as a supplementary text for more general courses on nonverbal communication or evolutionary science...highly interesting.

I am quite enthusiastic about the presentation of the behavioral ecology approach, which I find to be highly sophisticated and compelling... this perspective represents a theoretical advance that gives students of facial expression much to ponder.

I believe that the position Fridlund has advanced is important and thought provoking, and that it should be carefully studied by all serious scholars of facial expression and emotion. If we take Fridlund's ideas seriously, and incorporate them into our thinking as appropriate, our theories will benefit greatly."

--Craig A. Smith, in CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGY

"This text presents an almost perfect overview and meta-analysis of the state of the art and beyond. It covers the historical, logical, methodological, biological and psychological bases of extant research on facial expression, and proposes a new theory and a host of derived hypotheses and ways to test them...The book is a profoundly scholarly review with an illuminating prospect. It is a must for all interested in communication, especially those involved in research on human interaction. It is up to date, richly and well illustrated, written with exceptionally clear language and logic, and particularly penetrating and disturbing."

--Alain Schmitt, Universitat Wien, in HUMAN ETHOLOGY BULLETIN

"As a social psychologist who has branched out into behavioral ecology, Fridlund is uniquely suited to undertake this exposition and critique...His expertise ranges from evolutionary biology to muscle physiology and anthropology, resulting in a wide-ranging and well informed presentation of a large number of relevant topics. The book combines a presentation of modern behavioral ecological views of human facial displays and nonverbal communication with a critical, reasoned and fair discussion of current emotional theories that stress the importance of facial displays of emotion. The evidence adduced ranges from biology to experimental psychology, from contemporary ethology to clinical neurology. It is the definitive and exhaustive current treatment of human facial expression. Its reexamination of Darwin's book, spelling out the motives behind its writing and the message that Darwin delivered, is a brilliant contribution to the history of evolution as well as to an understanding of current and past trends.... The book has no real competitors, being unusual in the depth and breadth of its coverage."

--GEORGE MANDLER, University of California

In **Human Facial Expression**, Alan Fridlund approaches the literature on facial expression like a Samurai in one of Kurosawa's glorious epics, slashing at conceptual giants such as Darwin and Ekman with poise and unquestionable courage... Fridlund has collated a massive amount of data on the neurobiological and psychological mechanisms underlying emotional expression, in addition to providing several carefully developed hypotheses for the evolutionary origins and adaptive significance of such expressions.... The end product is a book that shows the extraordinary power of Darwinian thinking and emphasizes the point that like the human eye, heart, and foot, psychological processes have also been shaped by natural selection."

--MARC HAUSER, Harvard University Department of Anthropology

"This major treatise on the evolution of facial behaviour presents the most radical and controversial view on

the topic since Darwin's **The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals** (1872)."

--NATURE

From the Back Cover

This unique book provides an integrated view of human facial expressions based on contemporary knowledge about the evolution of signaling across the animal kingdom. Spanning fields that range from psychology and neurology to anthropology and linguistics, it reopens and discusses classic questions such as: What do facial expressions express? What are the relations between facial expressions and our motives and emotions? How did our facial expressions evolve? Are there really innate and universal facial expressions?

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christina Bain:

This Human Facial Expression: An Evolutionary View book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Human Facial Expression: An Evolutionary View without we know teach the one who examining it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Human Facial Expression: An Evolutionary View can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even telephone. This Human Facial Expression: An Evolutionary View having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Walter Godinez:

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Allison Phelps:

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Ronald Smith:

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