



Collective Emotions: Perspectives from psychology, philosophy, and sociology (Series in Affective Science)

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Although collective emotions have a long tradition in scientific inquiry, for instance in mass psychology and the sociology of rituals and social movements, their importance for individuals and the social world has never been more obvious than in the past decades. The Arab Spring revolution, the Occupy Wall Street movement, and mass gatherings at music festivals or mega sports events clearly show the impact collective emotions have both in terms of driving conflict and in uniting people. But these examples only show the most obvious and evident forms of collective emotions. Others are more subtle, although less important: shared moods, emotional atmospheres, and intergroup emotions are part and parcel of our social life. Although these phenomena go hand in hand with any formation of sociality, they are little understood. Moreover, there still is a large gap in our understanding of individual emotions on the one hand and collective emotional phenomena on the other hand.

This book presents a comprehensive overview of contemporary theories and research on collective emotions. It spans several disciplines and brings together, for the first time, various strands of inquiry and up-to-date research in the study of collective emotions and related phenomena. In focusing on conceptual, theoretical, and methodological issues in collective emotion research, the volume narrows the gap between the wealth of studies on individual emotions and inquiries into collective emotions. The book catches up with a renewed interest into the collective dimensions of emotions and their close relatives, for example emotional climates, atmospheres, communities, and intergroup emotions. This interest is propelled by a more general increase in research on the social and interpersonal aspects of emotion on the one hand, and by trends in philosophy and cognitive science towards refined conceptual analyses of collective entities and the collective properties of cognition on the other hand. The book includes sections on: Conceptual Perspectives; Collective Emotion in Face-to-Face Interactions; The Social-Relational Dimension of Collective Emotion; The Social Consequences of Collective Emotions; Group-Based and Intergroup Emotion; Rituals, Movements, and Social Organization; and Collective Emotions in Online Social Systems.

Including contributions from psychologists, philosophers, sociologists, and neuroscience, this volume is a unique and valuable contribution to the affective sciences literature.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

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Christian von Scheve is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Freie Universität Berlin, where he heads the Research Area "Sociology of Emotion" at the Institute of Sociology. He is also affiliated to the Research Cluster "Languages of Emotion" at Freie Universität and appointed Research Professor at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin. Previously, he was Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Vienna and a Fellow of the Research Group "Emotions as Bio-Cultural Processes" at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) at Bielefeld University. He studied Sociology, Psychology, Economics, and Political Science at the University of Hamburg, where he obtained his doctorate in Economics and Social Sciences. He works in the sociology of culture and stratification as well as in economic sociology and social psychology and focuses on the manifold intersections of culture, society, and emotion.

Mikko Salmela is an Academy Research Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies and a member of Finnish Center of Excellence in the Philosophy of Social Sciences. He worked as a Visiting Researcher at the University of Texas at Austin in 2001-2002 and at the Ludwig Maximilians University Munich in 2006-2007. Salmela studied Philosophy and Political History at the University of Helsinki where he obtained his doctorate in Social Sciences. His postdoctoral and subsequent research has focused on the philosophy of emotions from an interdisciplinarily informed perspective. In particular, he addresses questions about the nature and justification of emotions, both individual and collective; about the relation of emotions, values, and identity; and about the roles of collective affective phenomena in the structure and dynamics of social groups.

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