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0521583713 - The Social Context of Nonverbal Behavior

Edited by Pierre Philippot, Robert S. Feldman and Erik J. Coats

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The Social Context of Nonverbal Behavior

This volume presents, in an integrated framework, the newest, most contemporary perspectives on the role of nonverbal behavior in social interaction. The book includes empirically grounded work and theories that are central to our understanding of the reciprocal influences between nonverbal behavior and social variables. In doing so, it contributes to the ongoing controversy now shaping the field regarding the degree to which nonverbal behavior represents social, as opposed to biological, forces.

The volume also highlights a number of recent subareas in the domain of nonverbal behavior that hold much promise, including the role of nonverbal behavior in group membership and media influences on nonverbal behavior. It also presents data and theories that have applied value, useful to people working in such fields as communication, psychotherapy, and counseling. Finally, the volume gathers contributors in different subfields that are rarely presented jointly, such as family and media socialization factors.

Pierre Philippot is Professor of Psychology at the University of Louvain at Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. He is also Senior Research Associate at the Belgium National Science Foundation.

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page ix
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 Introducing Nonverbal Behavior Within a Social Context	3
PIERRE PHILIPPOT, ROBERT S. FELDMAN, AND ERIK J. COATS	
Part I Social Norms in Nonverbal Behavior	
2 Cultural Influences on Nonverbal Expressions of Emotion	17
CENITA KUPPERBUSCH, DAVID MATSUMOTO, KRISTIE KOOKEN, SHERRY LOEWINGER, HIDEKO UCHIDA, CARINDA WILSON-COHN, AND NATHAN YRIZARRY	
3 Option or Obligation to Smile: The Effects of Power and Gender on Facial Expression	45
MARIANNE LAFRANCE AND MARVIN A. HECHT	
4 Emotional Displays and Dissemblance in Childhood: Implications for Self-Presentation	71
CAROLYN SAARNI AND HANNELORE WEBER	
Part II Transmission of Social Norms Regulating Nonverbal Behavior	
5 Family Expressiveness: A Retrospective and New Directions for Research	109
AMY G. HALBERSTADT, VALERIE W. CRISP, AND KIMBERLY L. EATON	
	vii

Cambridge University Press

0521583713 - The Social Context of Nonverbal Behavior

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)viii *Contents*

6	The Influence of Television on Children's Nonverbal Behavior	156
	ERIK J. COATS, ROBERT S. FELDMAN, AND PIERRE PHILIPPOT	
7	Group Membership and the Decoding of Nonverbal Behavior	182
	GILLES KIROUAC AND URSULA HESS	
Part III Immediate Social Factors During Interaction		
8	Mimicry: Facts and Fiction	213
	URSULA HESS, PIERRE PHILIPPOT, AND SYLVIE BLAIRY	
9	Facial Expression and Emotion: A Situationist View	242
	JOSÉ-MIGUEL FERNÁNDEZ-DOLS	
10	Facial Behavior Alone and in the Presence of Others	262
	HUGH WAGNER AND VICTORIA LEE	
11	The Social and Emotional Functions of Facial Displays	287
	ANTONY S. R. MANSTEAD, AGNETA H. FISCHER, AND ESTHER B. JAKOBS	
Part IV The Role of Nonverbal Behavior in the Facilitation of Social Interaction		
12	The Evolution of a Parallel Process Model of Nonverbal Communication	317
	MILES L. PATTERSON	
13	Conflict Issues and Conflict Strategies as Contexts for Nonverbal Behavior in Close Relationships	348
	JUDITH A. FEENEY, PATRICIA NOLLER, GRANIA SHEEHAN, AND CANDIDA PETERSON	
14	Love's Best Habit: Deception in the Context of Relationships	372
	D. ERIC ANDERSON, MATTHEW E. ANSFIELD, AND BELLA M. DEPAULO	
	<i>Author Index</i>	411
	<i>Subject Index</i>	422

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

The impetus for this book came from a series of meetings that were held in Belgium and the United States over a period of several years. In our informal discussions, it became apparent that no unified source covering the social aspects of nonverbal behavior existed. Consequently, we embarked on a project that would bring together the best and most current work in the area.

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii *Contributors*

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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xiii

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