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978-0-521-84282-2 - Group Dynamics and Emotional Expression

Edited by Ursula Hess and Pierre Philippot

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Group Dynamics and Emotional Expression

The study of emotional expressions has a long tradition in psychology. Although research in this domain has extensively studied the social context factors that influence the expresser's facial display, the perceiver was considered passive. This book focuses on more recent developments that show that the perceiver is also subject to the same social rules and norms that guide the expresser's behavior and that knowledge of relevant emotion norms can influence how emotional expressions shown by members of different groups are perceived and interpreted. Factors such as ethnic-group membership, gender, and relative status all influence not only emotional expressions but also the interpretation of emotional expressions shown by members of different groups. Specifically, the research presented asks the question of whether and why the same expressions shown by men or women, members of different ethnic groups, or individuals high and low in status are interpreted differently.

Ursula Hess is Professor of Psychology at the University of Quebec at Montreal. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from Dartmouth College and is a Fellow at the Association for Psychological Science. Her current research is in the area of emotion psychology – in particular, the communication of affect with an emphasis on two main lines of research: psychophysiological measures and the role of social influences in the encoding and decoding of emotional expressions.

Pierre Philippot is Professor of Psychology at the University of Louvain in Belgium. He is also a Master of Research at the Belgium National Science Foundation. He received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Louvain. He has published many books and written many articles for international, peer-reviewed scientific journals.

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This series is jointly published by Cambridge University Press and the Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, as part of the joint publishing agreement established in 1977 between the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and the Syndics of Cambridge University Press.

Cette publication est publiée en co-édition par Cambridge University Press et les Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme. Elle s'intègre dans le programme de co-édition établi en 1977 par la Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et les Syndics de Cambridge University Press.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521842822

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First published 2007

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Group dynamics and emotional expression / edited by Ursula Hess, Pierre Philippot.
p. cm. – (Studies in emotion and social interaction)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-521-84282-2 (hardback)

ISBN-10: 0-521-84282-4 (hardback)

1. Emotions. 2. Social groups. I. Hess, Ursula. II. Philippot, Pierre, 1960– III. Title.
BF531.G77 2007

305.01 – dc22 2006019239

ISBN 978-0-521-84282-2 hardback

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