

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Mind

edited by

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The University of Sheffield

AFFECTIVE BODILY AWARENESS

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Affective Bodily Awareness

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Abstract: Most accounts of bodily self-awareness focus on its sensory and agentic dimensions, tracking the origins of our special relationship with our own body in the way we gain information about it and in the way we act with it. However, they often neglect a fundamental dimension of our subjective bodily life, namely its affective dimension. The body typically remains at the margin of consciousness unless bodily information alerts us to the goodness or badness of our bodily states. This Element will discuss bodily self-awareness through the filter of its affective significance. It is organized around four core themes: (i) the relationship between bodily awareness and action in instrumental and protective contexts, (ii) the motivational role of pain and interoception, (iii) the sense of bodily ownership and its relation to the value of the body for survival, and (iv) bodily anchoring in peripersonal and egocentric awareness. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: self, action, pain, interoception, egocentric

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