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Elements in Psychology and Culture

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## THE UNIVERSALITY OF EMOTION

*Perspectives from the Sciences  
and Humanities*

Bradley J. Irish  
*Arizona State University*



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# The Universality of Emotion

## Perspectives from the Sciences and Humanities

Elements in Psychology and Culture

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**Abstract:** This Element surveys how a number of major disciplines – psychology, neuroscience, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, history, linguistics, and literary/cultural studies – have addressed the long-standing research question of whether human emotions should be thought of as meaningfully “universal.” The Element presents both the universalist and anti-universalist positions, and concludes by considering attempts to move beyond this increasingly unhelpful binary.

**Keywords:** emotion, universality, constructed emotion theory, basic emotion theory, biocultural approaches

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