**Human detection of emotional valence in chimpanzees**

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**ABSTRACT**

Human ability to detect the emotional states of others is key to our success as a social species. The same is true of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), with whom we share a close phylogenetic relationship. Little is known about the evolutionary homologies between human and chimpanzee emotional communications systems. The present online playback study aims to fill this gap by demonstrating that humans have the ability to detect positive or negative emotional valence of audio-visual stimuli of chimpanzees. The present research highlights the substantial impact these different factors of emotional recognition of non-human animals could have on welfare of non-human primates, ranging from employing experience and directing future training, to accounting for any effects of anthropomorphism on how we interpret signals of well-being. Possible future research includes more in-depth investigation into the phylogeny of emotional communication and the evolutionary homologies in communications systems between humans and non-human primates.

Key Words: *Evolutionary Psychology, Emotion, Emotional Valence, Communication, Multimodality, Chimpanzees, Pan troglodytes, Animal Welfare.*