

How the world is experienced in emotion: Theories and Implications of world-focused emotion experience.

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This paper analyses the phenomenon of world-focused emotion experience, which has not had much recent attention from psychologists or philosophers. World-focused emotion experience is that aspect of emotion experience which is directed at the world rather than the self or body. For example, seeing a scary room, a disgusting spider, or an adorable baby. These are typically perceptual experiences and are not the same as either propositional thoughts or appraisals, although they may be the result of appraisals. This paper looks at the history of the characterization of such experiences from the Gestalt psychologists to the present day. Various characterizations of world-focused emotion experience are examined including: Ehrenfels qualities (Kohler), physiognomic character (Koffka), hodological space (Lewin), and gerundival perception (Lambie & Marcel). I will discuss the implications of world-focused emotion experience (and how it is characterized) for emotion theory and for emotion regulation.