

RULES OF EMOTIONAL DISPLAY TOWARDS AUTHORITY FIGURES: CULTURE AND DENMARK

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Definition

- Display rules (Ekman & Friesen, 1969) are rules learned early in childhood that help individuals manage and modify their emotional expressions depending on social circumstances.

Background

- This study is part of a larger study (Matsumoto et al., in print 2005), that aims to measure cross cultural variations in display rules of emotions.

Aim

- To present preliminary Danish results regarding display rules towards authorities (father, mother, male and female, older professors (old means in this context above 50 years): more specifically to what extent emotions are expressed towards authorities.

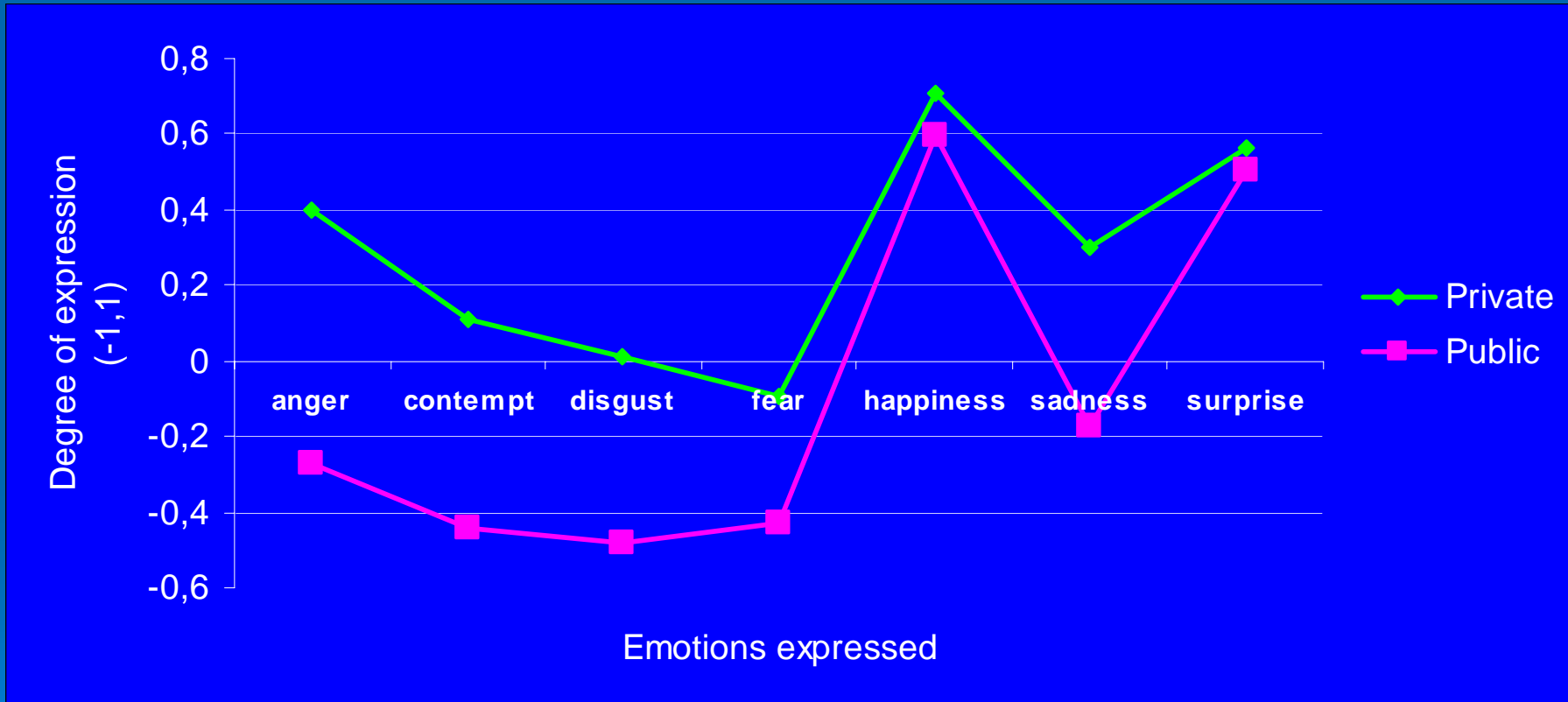
Method: A Questionnaire Study

- A modified version of the Display Rule Assessment Inventory (DRAI) (Matsumoto et al., 1998) were filled out by 61 university students
- Respondents were asked to select what kind of behavioural response would occur if they felt a given emotion in interaction with five different types of people:
 - themselves, family, friends/acquaintances, fellow students and professors.
- Respondents were asked to rate their behavioural responses with regards to seven different emotions:
 - anger, disgust, contempt, sadness, happiness, surprise and fear
- The ratings were done in two different settings:
 - private and public
- The ratings were operationalised into different ways in which expressions of emotions are modified (expression, amplification, de-amplification, neutralization, masking, and qualification) of which we will present the extent to which the person expresses the emotion as he or she feels it (expression).
- The data were analyzed using a mixed model analysis of variance with gender as a between subject variable and situation, emotion type and subject as repeated measures.

Does gender influence expressions of emotion towards authorities?

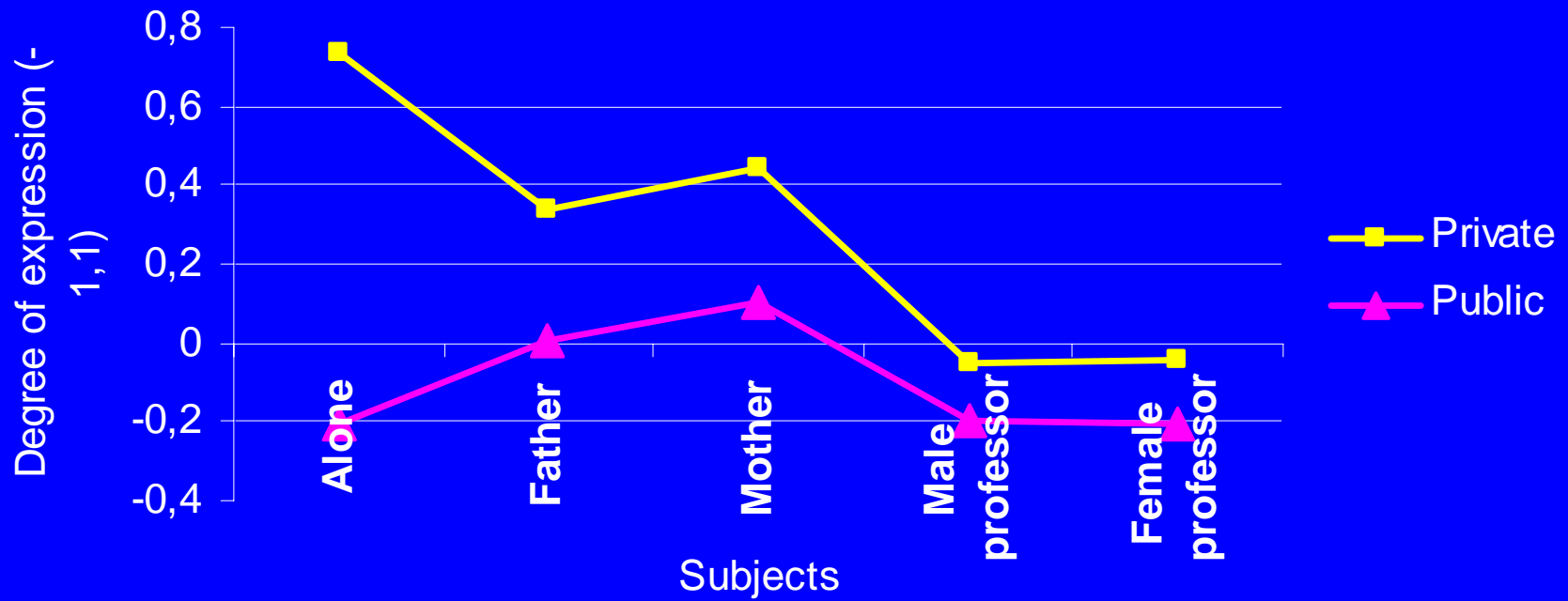


Is expressions of emotion affected by setting (Private vs. Public)?

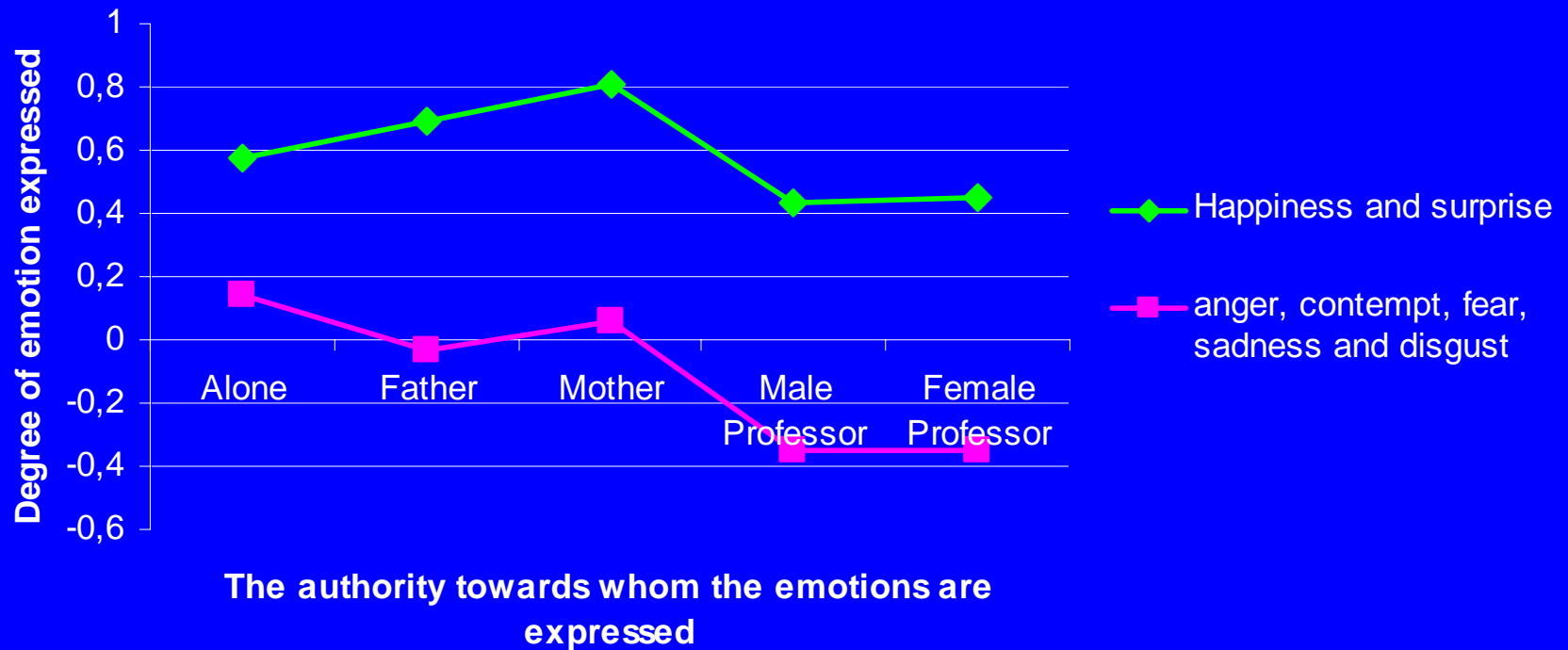


Does the setting, influence the expression of emotion towards authorities?

Expressions of emotions towards authorities as a function of situation



Are types of emotions differently expressed towards authorities?



Summary and conclusion

- These results indicate that the degree in which expressions of emotions towards diverse authorities figures vary depending on the situations in which they arise
 - 1. Men express less fear than women, but otherwise there is no overall difference between men and women.
 - 2. Emotions are expressed more in private than in public, especially so for negative emotions and emotions directed at oneself.
 - 3. Negative emotions are shown less and less towards authorities, compared to positive emotions.

Discussion

- To fully appreciate the findings of this study, they should be placed in the context of the forthcoming crosscultural survey from Matsumoto, Yoo et al., (in print 2005)

Thank you for listening!

