Emotions are felt in specific body parts and activate motor and somatosensory maps, suggesting that emotions are strongly rooted in our bodily experiences.

BACKGROUND

Emotions & Bodily sensations (e.g., “I am touched”). It’s NOT just ways of saying but emotions are associated with specific body parts (Nummenmaa, Glerean, & Hietanen, 2011).

DESING

26 Female Participants (M=27.75; DS=5.75), right-handed with no previous neurological or psychiatric illness.

5 Emotions (Happiness, Serenity, Fear, Anger, Sadness) X 4 Body parts (Face, Hand, Trunk, Feet)

1h fMRI scanning with 3 blocks

Somatosensory functional localiser task

Emotional recall task

Motor functional localiser task

After the fMRI session, all participants coloured Body Silhouettes aimed at capturing the body sensations felt during the Emotional Recall task.

RESULTS

• Behavioural results: body silhouettes

• Neuroimaging results

• Voxels and Pixels Analysis

Level II Analysis: Discrete emotions overlap with body representations across somatosensory and motor areas.

Selected references:

m.giraud@campus.unimib.it