

TRISTESSE PASSION JOIE TRISTESSE  
 RAGE DÉGOÛT SURPRISE DÉGOÛT  
 COLÈRE PEUR AMOUR COLÈRE  
 JOIE TRISTESSE PASSION JOIE  
 SURPRISE DÉGOÛT

At Princess Diana's funeral, Queen Elizabeth II greets people waiting in line to sign the condolence book.



What exactly does she feel at this moment?

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Is it possible to read a face like a book? What are emotions for? How are they triggered?

These are some of the questions which scientists in the NCCR Affective Sciences are trying to answer.



Emotion

The NCCR **Affective Sciences** is the first national research centre dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of emotions and their effects on human behaviour and society.

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Joy Sadness Passion Surprise Disgust Love Anger Fear

Psychology Philosophy Neurosciences  
 Law Social Sciences History Medical Sciences  
 Literature Economics

**National Centre of Competence in Research Affective Sciences**

Emotions in individual behaviour and social processes (NCCR Affective Sciences)



Psychology Philosophy Neurosciences Law Social Sciences  
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## EMOTIONS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN ALMOST ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES

- In the area of **health**, they are involved in feelings of well-being as well as depression and anxiety.
- At **school**, if they are not properly managed, they can spill over into violence, aggression, and conflicts between teachers and pupils.
- In the **courtroom**, judges and juries have a hard time remaining unbiased by the distress of crime victims.
- In **politics**, parties use emotions in their election campaigns. Emotions can also be decisive in international negotiations.
- In the **arts**, emotions are both a source of creativity and a major effect of painting, music, literature, and other forms of artistic expression.
- In **economic life**, emotions influence decision making and risk taking.
- In **sport**, emotions can unleash athletes' performances or paralyse them.

## THE NCCR AFFECTIVE SCIENCES IN A NUTSHELL

- The first research centre worldwide *dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of emotions and their effects on human behaviour and society*
- A multidisciplinary approach *bringing together psychologists, neuroscientists, medical researchers, philosophers, historians, literary theorists, social scientists, economists, legal scholars, and computer scientists*
- **More than 100 researchers**, at all career levels, at the Universities of Berne, Fribourg, Geneva, Neuchâtel, and Zurich
- An ambitious doctoral and postdoctoral program to train a new generation of researchers, providing active support for the research careers of women
- Partnerships with public- and private-sector organizations involving applied research on the role of emotions in social policy, health, decision-making, human resource management, and consumer behavior

## AN AMBITIOUS RESEARCH PROGRAM BASED ON THREE AREAS OF INVESTIGATION

- What triggers our emotions?
- How do we control our emotions?
- How do emotions influence interpersonal relations and social interactions?

## USING A WIDE RANGE OF LEADING-EDGE METHODS AND PARADIGMS

- Conceptual and comparative analysis (*between cultures and historical periods*)
- Behavioural analysis (*timing, type and style of decisions and actions; ambulatory assessments in natural environments*)
- Analysis of verbal (*oral and written*) and non-verbal communication (*facial and vocal expression and gesture*)
- Physiological measurement (*heart rate, respiration, perspiration, body temperature*)
- Measurement of brain activity (*Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Electro-Encephalography*)