

Mesopotamians Experienced Emotions in Unexpected Body Areas

Description

Inquiring of an individual raised in Taiwan where they perceive the locus of their rage, one would likely find them gesturing towards the vicinity of their head or chest. Remarkably, a comparable response can be anticipated from a counterpart residing in Finland. This cross-cultural resonance in the embodiment of emotion is indicative of a universal human experience, transcending geographic boundaries.

However, a temporal excursion back to ancient Mesopotamia might yield decidedly different anatomical associations. Recent examinations of millennia-old Neo-Assyrian texts, spanning the 10th to 7th centuries BCE, reveal that anger was predominantly perceived as situated within the thighs. Such stark divergence invites contemplation about cultural variations in emotional expression.

Heat maps depicting emotions
Heat maps illustrating the localization of anger in modern and Mesopotamian contexts.

(Modern: Lauri Nummenmaa et al., *PNAS*, 2014/Mesopotamian: Lahnakoski et al., *iScience*, 2024)

Indeed, Mesopotamians attributed love and happiness to the liver, anguish to the armpits, and even sexual arousal to the ankles, a notion that seems curious by contemporary standards. Such findings underscore the multifaceted relationship humans share with their bodies in the context of emotional experiences.

Research conducted by cognitive neuroscientist Juha Lahnakoski and colleagues involved a meticulous review of the Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus, cataloguing a variety of emotions alongside their corporeal correlates.

This investigative endeavor has yielded a comprehensive heat map delineating specific body regions associated with 18 emotional states, including envy, pride, and schadenfreude. Importantly, this empirical data illustrates a discernible continuity in the anatomical manifestations of emotion throughout human history.

Nonetheless, the challenges of interpreting ancient lexicons remain formidable. Even as researchers endeavor to refine our understanding, they acknowledge that historical texts cannot wholly encapsulate the lived emotional experiences of individuals.

Advancements in generative language models promise to enhance our comprehension of metaphorical constructs that various cultures employ, thereby enriching our grasp of the intricate interplay between language, emotion, and physiological response.

Vocabulary List:

1. Embodiment /sm'bodiment/ (noun): The representation or expression of something in a tangible form.



- 2. Divergence /daɪ'vɜ:rdʒəns/ (noun): A difference or deviation from a common point.
- 3. Meticulous /məˈtɪk.jə.ləs/ (adjective): Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.
- 4. Correlate /'kɔːrəleɪt/ (verb): To establish or show a relationship between two things.
- 5. **Manifestations** /,mænɪfɛs'teɪʃənz/ (noun): Physical forms or expressions of something; indications or signs.
- 6. Lexicons /ˈlɛksɪkənz/ (noun): Dictionaries or word lists; the vocabulary of a language or subject.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. According to the text, where do individuals raised in Taiwan perceive the locus of their rage?

Option: A) Head Option: B) Chest Option: C) Thighs Option: D) Ankles

2. Which body part in ancient Mesopotamia was anger predominantly associated with? ESL-NE

Option: A) Head Option: B) Chest Option: C) Thighs Option: D) Ankles

3. What did Mesopotamians attribute love and happiness to?

Option: A) Head Option: B) Chest Option: C) Liver Option: D) Ankles

4. According to the text, what emotion did Mesopotamians associate with the armpits?

Option: A) Love

Option: B) Happiness Option: C) Anguish

Option: D) Sexual Arousal

5. In the study mentioned, what emotions were associated with specific body regions?

Option: A) Joy, Sadness, Fear

Option: B) Jealousy, Contentment, Surprise



Option: C) Envy, Pride, Schadenfreude Option: D) Curiosity, Excitement, Boredom

6. What did advancements in generative language models promise to enhance?

Option: A) Cooking techniques
Option: B) Comedic timing

Option: C) Understanding metaphorical constructs

Option: D) Physical fitness

True-False

- 7. Individuals raised in Finland gesture towards their feet when perceiving rage according to the text.
- 8. Emotional associations with body parts have remained consistent throughout human history.
- 9. The challenges of interpreting ancient lexicons are easily surmountable according to researchers.
- 10. Advancements in generative language models will not impact our comprehension of cultural metaphorical constructs.
- 11. Ancient Mesopotamians did not attribute any emotional significance to specific body parts.
- 12. The heat map mentioned in the text delineates specific body regions associated with 10 emotional states.

Gap-Fill

14. In ancient Mesopotamia, sexual arousal was attributed to the
15. The investigative endeavor led to a comprehensive heat map delineating body regions associated with
emotional states.
16. Researchers acknowledge that historical texts cannot wholly encapsulate the
experiences of individuals.
17. Advancements in generative language models promise to enhance our comprehension of metaphorical
constructs by enriching our grasp of the intricate interplay between, emotion, and



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P		l response.

18. Mesopotamians associated love and happiness with the _____

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A) Head 2. C) Thighs 3. C) Liver 4. C) Anguish 5. C) Envy, Pride, Schadenfreude

6. C) Understanding metaphorical constructs

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. False Gap-Fill: 14. ankles 15. 18 16. lived emotional 17. language 18. liver

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to the proportion of a particular disease or condition in a population at a specific time? ESL-NEWS

Option: Prevalence Option: Adherence Option: Resilience Option: Heritage

2. Which term describes the body's response to injury or infection characterized by redness swelling and pain?

Option: Adaptability Option: Inflammation Option: Thermal

Option: Genomic

3. What term refers to how well a patient follows medical advice and takes prescribed treatments?

Option: Contributions Option: Adherence Option: Cognitive Option: Corroborate

4. Which term means the act of leaving out or not including someone or something?

Option: Contaminants Option: Exclusion Option: Divergence Option: Elucidate



5. Which term refers to the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and setbacks?
Option: Manifestations
Option: Intrepid
Option: Resilience Option: Cosmology
Option. Cosmology
6. What term relates to the complete set of genes or genetic material present in a cell or organism?
Option: Correlate
Option: Genomic
Option: Manifestations Option: Divergence
Option. Divergence
7. Which term describes a sudden and violent event with harmful effects?
Option: Inflationary
Option: Preservation
Option: Cataclysmic
Option: Thermal
8. What term means the process of separating and going in different directions?
Option: Contaminants
Option: Intrepid
Option: Lexicons
8. What term means the process of separating and going in different directions? Option: Contaminants Option: Intrepid Option: Lexicons Option: Divergence
9. Which term refers to the display or demonstration of a particular action or object?
Option: Cosmology
Option: Preservation
Option: Contaminants
Option: Manifestations
10. What term means to confirm or give support to a statement theory or finding?
Option: Intrepid
Option: Corroborate
Option: Intermingled
Option: Meticulous
Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)
11 diseases are characterized by the progressive degeneration of the structure
and function of the nervous system.



12	is the ability to adjust to	new conditions or environmental changes.
13	is the study of the origin	evolution and eventual fate of the universe.
14	energy is energy derived	from heat.
15	are substances that mak	te something impure by adding harmful or unwanted
elements.		
16. An	explorer fearlessly er	nbarks on dangerous or unknown journeys.
17. The professor sought to		complex scientific concepts for the students.
18. The team acknowledged	the valuable	made by each member to the project.
19. Preserving cultural	is es	sential for passing down traditions to future
generations.		
20. Scientists aim to	differer	nt variables to understand their relationship.
Matching Sentences (Ma	atch each definition to	the correct word from the vocabulary list.)
		•
21. The mystery novel had	a plot full of twists and to	irns that kept readers engaged.
21. The mystery novel had 22. of historical sites is crue		irns that kept readers engaged.
, ,	cial to maintain their cult	urns that kept readers engaged.
22. of historical sites is crud	cial to maintain their cultu	ural significance. n certain environments.
22. of historical sites is crue 23. can be harmful if not pr	cial to maintain their culturoperly shielded against in attention to detail in ever	ural significance. certain environments. by aspect of her work.
22. of historical sites is crue 23. can be harmful if not pr 24. She was known for her	cial to maintain their culturoperly shielded against in attention to detail in ever unique that reflect their l	ural significance. n certain environments. ny aspect of her work. anguage and history.
22. of historical sites is crud 23. can be harmful if not pr 24. She was known for her 25. Different cultures have	cial to maintain their culturoperly shielded against in attention to detail in ever unique that reflect their left the universe including its	ural significance. ural readers engaged. ural significance. ura
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22. of historical sites is crue 23. can be harmful if not pr 24. She was known for her 25. Different cultures have 26. explores the nature of t 27. The flavors of the spice	cial to maintain their culturoperly shielded against in attention to detail in ever unique that reflect their lethe universe including its es were so well that it creates in involves processes such	arns that kept readers engaged. aral significance. a certain environments. by aspect of her work. anguage and history. origin and development. ated a delicious blend. as thinking learning and problem-solving.



30. Her elegant posture and graceful movements were the of sophistication.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Prevalence 2. Inflammation 3. Adherence 4. Exclusion 5. Resilience 6. Genomic

7. Cataclysmic 8. Divergence 9. Manifestations 10. Corroborate

Gap-Fill: 11. Neurodegenerative 12. Adaptability 13. Cosmology 14. Thermal 15. Contaminants 16. Intrepid

17. Elucidate 18. Contributions 19. heritage 20. Correlate

Matching sentence: 1. Intriguing 2. Preservation 3. Radiation 4. Meticulous 5. Lexicons 6. Cosmology

7. Intermingled 8. Cognitive 9. Inflationary 10. Embodiment

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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