



## Invitation to a guest-lecture by Prof. Dr. R. Cowie



Prof. Dr. R. Cowie

title: Bringing expert understanding of emotion into common use

day: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2014

time: 10.15 - 12.00

room: BIN-1-D-22, Binzmühlestrasse 14/7, 8050 Zürich

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### Abstract

Plato saw the relationship between emotion and reason as central to living well, and offered a potent way of understanding it (the charioteer). Expert understanding has transformed since Darwin and James, and the results matter in enormously diverse fields – health, education, peace studies, law, computing, etc.. However, they do not have the kind of accessibility that Plato achieved. The aim here is to offer a synthesis that could enter common use. Emotional experiences & behaviours are understood as effects of underlying systems with multiple, connected functions. They evaluate, prepare us in multiple ways to face the situation as they read it, align us with (or against) other people, and interrupt voluntary activity if need be. Feelings notify consciousness of their workings. Good relations between them and conscious thought are as vital as Plato thought, but much more intricate.

### Relevant references

- Cowie, R., & Cornelius, R. R. (2003). Describing the emotional states that are expressed in speech. *Speech Communication, 40*, 5–32. doi:10.1016/S0167-6393(02)00071-7
- Cowie, R. (2009). Perceiving emotion: towards a realistic understanding of the task. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 364*(1535), 3515–3525.
- Cowie R. (2010). Describing the forms of emotional colouring that pervade everyday life. In Peter Goldie (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion* (pp. 63–94). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cowie, R., Douglas-Cowie, E., Tsapatsoulis, N., Votsis, G., Kollias, S., Fellenz, W., & Taylor, J. G. (2001). Emotion recognition in human-computer interaction. *Signal Processing Magazine, IEEE, 18*(1), 32–80.
- Cowie, R., Douglas-Cowie, E., & Cox, C. (2005). Beyond emotion archetypes: Databases for emotion modelling using neural networks. *Neural Networks, 18*(4), 371–388.

### Short biography

Professor Cowie graduated (from Stirling) in Philosophy and Psychology, and his PhD (from Sussex) compared human and machine vision. He has worked at Queen's, Belfast since 1975, on topics from individual differences in vision to the experience of becoming deaf. He was central to a series of projects on emotion and computing from the 1990s, and more recently has advised on therapies that focus on emotion and the role of emotion in peace and conflict.