

The Structure of Emotions: Why Correlations Matter

Kathryn Lively, Department of Sociology, Dartmouth College

Survey-based studies increasingly reveal few group differences in the ways in which individuals experience emotion. Despite these (non)-findings, qualitative studies, continue to report stark differences in men's and women's emotional lives, regardless of the domain in which they are embedded. Relying on nationally representative data from the General Survey's (GSS) 1996 emotions module, Lively and Heise (2004) developed a map of the correlations between discrete emotional states. They also advanced the theoretical proposition that emotions that correlate positively may be relatively accessible to one another, whereas emotions that do not may be relatively inaccessible. Presenting preliminary analyses on gender, Lively and Heise also posited that women's and men's emotions may, in fact, have different correlational structures. The purpose of this chapter is to develop the theoretical underpinnings of *emotional segueing* (Lively and Heise 2004) and to promote a research agenda that may help build a bridge between disparate quantitative and qualitative studies of group differences in emotions.

Works cited:

Lively, Kathryn J. and David R. Heise. 2004. "Sociological Realms of Emotional Experience. *American Journal of Sociology* 109:1109-36.