

Is the specifically expressive aspect of human facial expressions separable from other functions the expression may have had? I'm thinking of the physiological basis for the "disgust" expression--stick out the tongue to eject a bad object, etc. I'd suspect that the expression of disgust was derived from this physical function. But is there such a basis for happiness, an origin in some function separate from its expressive quality, or is the expressive, communicative quality here the function? Are the expressions of the same nature?

I'm having trouble understanding the different views of the three types of adaptationism we covered, empirical, explanatory, and methodological. While they all are described slightly differently, I don't see where they are in conflict. Also, although I realize there is a whole section dedicated to this question, what is adaptationism? If you buy into evolution by natural selection, are you an adaptationist? Is it something separate? Can you be an adaptationist, and not agree with evolutionary theory?

Our brains are incredibly plastic and we put them to all sorts of uses, but evolution could not possibly have operated fast enough for us to claim that most psychological propensities were selected for. Rather, we evolved large plastic brains as a generally useful adaptation, but we evolved something better than we needed, so to speak. We've spent the time since prehistory growing into our neurological potential. [Is there a separate *social* evolution occurring?]