

Are emotions perceptual experiences of value?

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A number of emotion theorists hold that emotions are perceptual experiences of value. In this paper I say why they are wrong. I claim that in the case of emotion there is nothing that can provide the perceptual modality that is needed if the perceptual theory is to succeed (where by 'perceptual modality' I mean the particular manner in which something is perceived). I argue that the five sensory modalities are not possible candidates for providing us with 'emotional perception'. But I also say why the usual candidate offered – namely feeling or affectivity – does not give us the sought-after perceptual modality. I conclude that as there seems to be nothing else that can provide the needed perceptual modality we have very good reason for holding that emotions are not perceptions of value.

1

Some emotions theorists hold that emotions are perceptual experiences of value. So, for instance, fear might be held to be a perception of *dangerousness* or *fearsomeness* and sadness the perception of a *loss* (see, de Sousa 1987, Tappolet 2005, Prinz 2004, 2006, Döring 2003, 2009).¹ Call this theory of emotion the 'perceptual-value theory of emotion'.

Proponents of the perceptual-value theory offer a number of considerations in support of their theory. In particular, it is claimed that thinking of emotions as perceptions

¹ The evaluative properties different perceptual theorists think emotions represent are not always of the same type (cf. Prinz 2004). For instance, whereas the property of being *dangerous* is a relational property (dangerousness = the property of posing a threat to our interests), the property of being *fearsome* is a 'response-dependent property' (fearsomeness = something like the property of *meriting* or *making sense of* a response of fear). Although differences between individual theorists regarding the nature of the evaluative properties are of interest, those differences do not bear on my critique of the perceptual theory (which seeks to show that emotions are not perceptions of value *however* the proposed evaluative content is spelt-out), and, therefore, will be largely over-looked in this paper.

of value enables us to incorporate what many find attractive about judgement theories of emotion (namely, their ability to attribute to emotion an intentional structure and for that reason allow emotions to be possible objects of rational evaluation), while at the same time avoid some common objections that have been raised against judgement theories. For instance, a criticism often made of the judgement theory is that it seems possible, even commonplace, for people to undergo an emotion (say, fear) while actively refusing to endorse the judgment that the judgment theorist believes identifies that emotion (say, a judgement regarding the presence of danger). Perceptual-value theorists claim that they can avoid that problem, however, because they seek to identify emotion with perception, not judgement, and point out that there need be nothing incoherent in holding that a person perceives something to be one way while judging it to be another, as the Müller-Lyre illusion illustrates (on this point, see Faucher and Tappolet 2006, Goldie 2009, Döring 2009).²

I will not discuss each of the considerations that perceptual-value theorists think lend support to their theory of emotion. However, I will say why emotions are not experiences of value. I will argue that in the case of emotion there is nothing that can provide us with the perceptual modality that is needed if the perceptual-value theory of emotion is to succeed. By ‘perceptual modality’ I mean the particular manner or mode in which the representational or intentional content of an experience is perceptually represented (where ‘representational or intentional content’ just means the way in which the world is presented in mind: for further discussion, see Crane 2007, Chalmers 2004). So, for example, when I see a red apple in front of me I represent the content of my experience – namely, *there being a red apple in front of me* – in a visual way; hence *seeing* (or, in other words, perceptually representing something in a visual manner) counts as a bona-fide perceptual modality. In what follows I argue that the five sensory modalities (seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, and

² For a useful summary of some of the other considerations cited in support of the perceptual-value theory of emotion, see Goldie 2009.

touching) are not possible candidates for providing us with 'emotional perception'. But moreover, I say why the usual candidate offered by perceptual-value theorists – namely 'feeling' or 'affectivity' – does not give us the sought-after perceptual modality. I conclude that as there seems to be nothing else that can provide perceptual theorists with the perceptual modality they need, we should reject the perceptual-value theory of emotion.

2

Consider the claim that each emotion involves at least one of the five sensory modalities. For example, fear might be identified with *seeing* or *hearing* something as dangerous or fearsome, and disgust with *smelling* or *tasting* something as repulsive. Now, there is no doubt that sensory experiences are often a *source* of emotion. The mere sight of a snake, for instance, can arouse fear or terror in many. It also seems noncontroversial to hold that emotions can *cause* us to have particular sensory experiences. For example, fear might cause objects to look or sound menacing or sinister. But it is clear that emotions are not themselves to be viewed as sensory experiences, and this for the following reasons.

To begin with, whereas emotions are normally caused by other mental states, sensory experiences are not brought about in this way. For instance, although we will usually feel fear in response to particular thoughts or perceptual experiences (say, the sight of a snake), visual and auditory experiences never have thoughts and other mental states as their causal antecedents. Instead sensory experiences are normally caused directly by the things they represent. So, for example, a visual experience of a red object will normally be a direct response to the red object that is perceived (on this point, see also Prinz 2004). And I take it that even in the case of hallucination, where the object perceived *cannot* be responsible for the sensory experience undergone, that experience will still have as its cause something other than a mental state (for instance, a malfunctioning of the relevant perceptual

mechanism). A second reason for not viewing emotions as sensory experiences is that such a view implies that people who fail to possess the relevant sensory modalities cannot be subjects of the emotion in question, and that is obviously false. For instance, many people who are blind and deaf can still undergo fear, and disgust can be undergone even if one has no sense of smell or taste.³ The third and most decisive reason for rejecting the current way of thinking about emotion is that such a view of emotion does not describe correctly the phenomenology or experience of emotion, or, in other words, the way in which our emotions appear or present themselves to us. What it is like to undergo fear or anger, for instance, is nothing like what it is to have a visual experience of any sort. Neither is undergoing fear or anger anything like having any other type of sensory experience, including auditory or tactile experiences. Crucially, and we will return to this point shortly, emotions manifest a *feeling* quality that is palpably lacking in the case of sensory experience. Emotion theorists from William James onwards often voice this sort of phenomenological complaint in respect of judgement theories of emotion, but it is one that can be brought to bear with as much force against attempts to assimilate emotion with sensory experience.

³ XXX has suggested to me that awe might be an exception to the claim that emotions can be caused by things other than sensory experiences, the thought being that awe is always felt in response to particular sensory experiences, say, the sight or sound of something that is beautiful or sublime. But I am unconvinced. For one thing it is not obvious that awe is an emotion. For another thing awe can be undergone in response to *thoughts* (say, the thought of someone achieving a great feat), not just sensory experiences. But even if there are exceptions to the claim that emotions can be triggered by things other than sensory experiences, this does not show that the emotions in question are *composed* of sensory experiences, of course. Also if there are exceptions they must be small in number, and will not include many emotions, including fear, sadness, and anger, that all perceptual-value theorists will want to include within the scope of their theory.

Consequently, the perceptual modality involved in the case of emotion cannot be any of the five sensory modalities. The most commonly cited candidate for the perceptual modality involved in the case of emotion is feeling or affectivity – where this will be taken to mean that when we undergo emotion we represent evaluative properties to ourselves by means of *feeling* (and not seeing or hearing, say). The thesis that emotional feelings provide us with ‘emotional perception’ is currently a popular thesis in the philosophy of emotion (see, for instance, Prinz 2004, 2005, 2006, Döring 2006, 2009). So, given its popularity (and given also that it is not at all clear what other than feeling could be proposed to possess the role of a perceptual modality) in the remainder of this paper I will critically evaluate that thesis. In what remains of this section I say why that thesis is to be rejected, and then, in the next section, I answer two responses that might be made to my rejection of that thesis.

It has already been explained why we should accept the view that emotions comprise (types of) feelings. Such a view describes the phenomenology of emotion properly.⁴ So, for instance, fear manifests a distinctive ‘edgy’ quality, and anger manifests a distinctive ‘irritable’ or ‘incensed’ quality. And it is worth pointing out that the first two objections made to the thesis that emotions are to be identified with sensory experiences have no force in respect of the claim that emotions comprise feelings. Thus, there is no reason to deny that emotional feelings are normally elicited by mental states; nor is there any reason to deny that people who fail to possess one or more of the five sensory modalities can undergo these feelings. Indeed I think it would be false to deny either of those things.

So, why is it the case that emotional feelings cannot provide us with the perceptual modality that is needed if the perceptual-value theory is to succeed? The reason for holding

⁴ This is not to say that emotions are constituted *wholly* by feelings. Although that is a view defended by some emotion theorists (see, for instance, Prinz 2004, 2005, Author XXX), in this section and the next I am concerned only to evaluate the claim that the feeling components of emotions provide us with the sought-after perceptual modality, and not the claim that feeling is all there is to emotion.

this is that although emotions comprise feelings, these feelings do *not* manifest phenomenally a representational character or content, including (and for our purposes *especially*) the sort of representational content the perceptual-value theorist is after. So, for instance, the representation of *there being a dangerous (or fearsome) object in front of me* is no part of the experience of the unpleasant edgy sensation that pervades my guts and limbs when I am frightened, or the representation of a *slight* or an *offence* is no part of what it is like to undergo the incensed or irritable feeling that is present in the emotion of anger.

The feelings that emotions comprise might be compared with bona-fide mental representational states, including thoughts and sensory experiences, which do present phenomenologically as possessing intentional or representational content. So, for example, the occurrent thought that cats are animals manifests phenomenally the intentional content that cats are animals. Similarly, a representation of an apple in front of me is very much part of the phenomenology of my visual experience of an apple in front of me; that is to say, that visual experience of mine presents phenomenologically to be representing an apple in front of me (cf. Siewert 1998, Horgan and Tienson 2002, Chalmers 2004⁵, Pitt 2004, Crane 2007).

And it would be no good to hold that in the case of 'emotional perception' the content is represented *non-conceptually*, where 'non-conceptual content' just means representational content that does not require or involve the deployment of concepts. This is because even in cases where a mental state represents its content non-conceptually the representational content of that mental state will still manifest itself phenomenally (on this point, see also Davies 1992, Crane 2007). This is evident when we consider the case of colour experiences. For instance, although a visual experience of an object's redness seems to

⁵ David Chalmers writes: 'It seems intuitively clear that perceptual phenomenology, by its very nature, involves the representation of the external world. For example, my visual phenomenology right now involves the representation of a computer on a desk in front of me, with various books and papers scattered on the desk'. (2004: 157)

involve no deployment of concepts that experience still presents itself to us phenomenologically as being a representation of an object's redness. Indeed, it is only because that experience presents itself in this way to us that we are able to evaluate that experience for its *accuracy*. This is because when we attend to a visual experience for the purpose of assessing it for its accuracy we have to attend to how that experience manifests itself to us (after all there is nothing else to which we *can* attend). But then that visual experience must manifest an intentional or representational structure, as it is only mental states with such a structure that can be evaluated for their accuracy. Therefore, even if the perceptual theorist holds that emotions represent their content non-conceptually (as many perceptual-value theorists *do* hold: see, for instance, Döring 2009, Faucher and Tappolet 2006) that is no defence to the objection that emotional feelings are not experiences of value because that is not how those feelings present themselves to us phenomenologically.⁶

3

There are two ways in which the perceptual-value theorist of emotion might try to respond to my claim that emotional feelings do not have (the sought-after) representational content, and, therefore, cannot provide us with the required perceptual modality. They might hold

⁶A further issue is that of whether it is open for perceptual-value theorists to hold that the content they attribute to emotion can be represented non-conceptually. For instance, it seems likely that representing something to be *dangerous* (or, in other words, as *posing a threat to one's interests*) will involve necessarily the deployment of concepts. Certainly for my own part I struggle to see what it could mean to speak of such content being represented non-conceptually. And it does not help much to insist that the content of fear is the *fearsome*. For presumably by 'fearsome' we mean something like 'meriting a response of fear' or 'making sense of a response of fear'. Thus to represent an object as fearsome is to represent the object as *meriting (or making sense of) a response of fear*. But again that looks as if it will involve the use of concepts (including that of '*meriting*' or '*making sense of*').

that I fail to describe the phenomenology correctly, or they might object that just because emotional feelings do not have the *appearance* of possessing representational content it does not follow that they do *not* have such content. Let us consider each response in turn.

3.1. To begin with, it might be held that I have failed to describe the phenomenology correctly, that, in other words, it *is* part of our experience of the feelings that emotions comprise, that they have the sought-after representational content or structure. There are two ways in which someone might attempt to argue that point.

First, it might be held that careful attention to particular salient cases reveals the representational content of the feelings that emotions comprise. So consider, for example, the agreeable or pleasurable sensation that I undergo on realising that it was I who built a particular house. Such a feeling, it might be held, manifests a distinctive '*smug*' or '*self-satisfied*' quality, and that quality, it seems, is inextricably tied up with a particular representation, namely (in this case) the representation of it being I who built the house. If that is so, we seem to have a counter-example to the claim that emotional feelings do not present themselves phenomenologically as having representational properties or content.

Now, in response, we can agree that when a person undergoes a pleasurable sensation on realising it was they who built a house they can be described as being smug. Moreover, we can accept that that smugness embodies a mental representation of it being them who built the house. We can also allow, for the sake of discussion, that the smugness undergone might include a positive evaluation of something done, say, a positive evaluation of the house that has been built.⁷ However, such an example does not demonstrate that

⁷Although I will not argue for the claim here it is not evident that a feeling of smugness *necessarily* includes a positive evaluation. Thus, in respect of the example given it seems to me that what I am smug about need not be the (evaluative) fact that I have done a good job building a house, but merely the (non-evaluative) fact that it was I who built it. But as nothing important rests on this in so far as

emotional feelings present phenomenally as having representational content. And this is because the example is being used in a way that confuses the phenomenology of the *feeling* with that of a *compound mental state* or episode of which the feeling is only a constituent. In other words, my smugness (and its associated representational character) attaches to the *complex mental episode* that comprises a pleasurable feeling *along with* the mental representation that arouses that feeling (namely, the realisation it was I who built the house, or the realisation that I have built a good house), and not to the *pleasurable feeling* itself that is only a component of that compound mental episode. The agreeable or pleasurable sensation undergone does not itself manifest a smug (and the associated representational) character at all; indeed it presents only as a non-representational feeling state. And of course a very similar story is likely to be told with respect to other examples that might be offered in support of the view that emotional feelings have representational content.

The second reason why it might be held I am wrong to claim that emotional feelings do not have the sought-after representational content, is that it might be alleged I am failing to consider the right *sorts* of feelings. Thus it might be held that I am thinking only about the *bodily feelings* that help constitute the emotions – for instance, the sensation of ‘visceral stirrings’ in the case of fear (see James 1884, Prinz 2004) – whereas the feelings that interest the perceptual-value theorist have very different properties, including the sought-after representational properties (cp. Goldie 2009).

It is still not entirely clear to me how the feelings that help compose the emotions are to be correctly classified (although for phenomenological reasons I think they are not simply to be assimilated with other kinds of feelings or sensations).⁸ However, I reject the claim that

my response to the present defence of the perceptual-value theory of emotion is concerned, I am happy to allow that a state of smugness might manifest an evaluative nature.

⁸Crucially emotional feelings seem to occupy what David Rosenthal has called a different ‘phenomenological location’ from other sorts of feelings (1984: 184). Thus whereas other feelings

I am considering the wrong (sorts of) feelings when I argue that emotional feelings do not have the sought-after representational or intentional properties. And this is because I think that the *only* feelings that are phenomenally manifest in the emotions are the feelings I have been describing in this paper. So, for instance, the 'restless' or 'nervous' sensation I undergo just before a dentist appointment (say) is the only feeling that a state of nervousness presents as having, and the unpleasant edgy sensation I undergo when afraid is the only feeling phenomenally manifest in a state of fear (which is not to deny that at the time of being afraid or nervous I may undergo other emotions and their associated feelings as well). And my argument has been that these feelings – the *only* feelings manifest in the emotions – do not have the representational properties that the perceptual-value theorist is after.

3.2. The second way the perceptual-value theorist might respond to my claim that feelings do not have the sought-after representational content is by holding that even if no intentional content is phenomenally manifest in emotional feeling that does not mean that such a feeling is *not* representational. There are two ways someone might argue this point.

To begin with, it might be held that even if no representational content is phenomenally manifest in an emotional feeling that does not mean that such a feeling is not representational because we cannot derive the nature of a mental state just from its *appearance*. Thus, it might be argued, perhaps in the case of emotional feelings the phenomenology gets it *wrong*; perhaps emotional feelings do represent the world in particular ways, even if that is not evidenced by how they present to us phenomenologically.

relate us only to the body (or parts of the body) emotional feelings seem to be experienced as belonging to the *self* (on this point cf. Descartes' remark that emotional feelings, but not other feelings, are felt 'as though they were in the soul itself' (1955: I, 25; cited in Stocker 1983:7).

The question, then, is what justifies inferring the nature of an emotional feeling from its appearance. One response would be to hold that although a thing's appearance does not *entail logically* that that thing is as it appears, it does normally provide us with *prima facie grounds* for holding that the thing is as it appears. That an object appears red, for instance, usually gives us grounds for holding that the object is red. Of course, it is possible the appearance is wrong, but unless (and until) we have enough evidence for thinking it is wrong, we are normally justified in holding that the object is as it appears. Similarly, it might be held that although the appearance of an emotional feeling does not entail logically its nature is as it appears, it does at least provide us with grounds for holding that the feeling is as it appears, and, therefore, barring the presence of defeaters, we are justified in holding that feelings have a non-representational structure if that is how they appear phenomenally.

But it would be surprising (and somewhat disappointing) if this were the best that an argument based on phenomenology could hope to achieve. In particular, such an achievement could not explain the sentiment that many have that an adequate description of our mental lives will *necessarily* be faithful to the phenomenology. Fortunately, in the case of emotional feelings and other conscious mental states we are able to make the much stronger claim that in their case we *can* infer logically their nature from how they appear. And this is because in the case of a phenomenally conscious mental state there can be *no gap* between the mental state's appearance and the actual nature or composition of that mental state.⁹ Colin McGinn makes this point with regards to physical pains and tickles (thus, as he points out, how pain presents itself – its *painful* appearance, in other words – is indistinguishable from the pain itself: McGinn 2004: 35–3:7 see also Kripke 1980), but the

⁹ This is not to say we can never be *mistaken* about the appearance of a conscious mental state, of course. It is entirely consistent with holding that there is no gap between the appearance of a mental state and its nature that we might describe the appearance incorrectly. There is no claim to introspective infallibility into the nature of mind being made here, then.

point generalises to other conscious mental states, including the feelings that are components of the emotions.¹⁰ So, for instance, I think the way in which the feeling associated with fear manifests itself – its *edgy* or *fearful* appearance, in other words – is indistinguishable from the feeling itself. Now, if this is right, we can hold that in the case of emotional feelings the phenomenology is to be trusted because to describe accurately the phenomenology of those feelings is to describe accurately the nature of those mental states.

The second reason why it might be objected that I have failed to demonstrate that emotional feelings do not have the sought-after intentional or representational content is as follows. Someone might accept that the nature or composition of an emotional feeling cannot be distinguished from its appearance, but continue to hold that emotional feelings have the sought-after representational content on the grounds that representational or intentional content is not something that is constitutive of a mental state and, therefore, is *not* a property that would be phenomenally manifest in a mental state. This seems to be the implication of Jesse Prinz's teleosemantic perceptual-value theory of emotion, for instance, which holds that emotions are feeling states that represent 'core relational themes' (that is, properties that bear on our vital interests) by virtue of being *caused by*, or *naturally selected to be caused by*, those properties (Prinz 2004, 2006). So, in Prinz's view, fear represents the property of dangerousness by virtue of having evolved to be caused by that property (2004). Now, if intentional content is a function of a causal relation holding between a feeling and the thing represented by the feeling, then intentional content will be no part of the feeling itself, and, therefore, not a property that is manifest phenomenally in the feeling.

¹⁰ Also cf. Pitt: 'There are no conditions under which an orange after-image does not look orange; and there are no conditions under which a painful sensation does not feel painful... [Since] there is no distinction between a conscious mental particular and the experience of it, the question of the relation between the way a conscious mental particular appears and the way it is has only one possible answer: the way it appears *is* the way it is.' (2004: 12)

In response, we might accept there is *one* sense of 'represent' in which something represents its cause. This is the sense of 'represent' that is intended when we say X *means* or *entails* Y by virtue of being caused by Y. Call this sense of 'represent' 'represent₁'. Thus, we can say that thunder 'represents₁' (=means) lightning by virtue of being caused by lightning, and footprints represent₁ an intruder by virtue of being caused by an intruder. And with respect to represent₁ we might even allow (or at least consider it a serious hypothesis) that the feelings that help compose the emotions represent₁ (or at least *should* represent₁) particular properties, including, the 'core relational themes'. However, this does not demonstrate that those feelings have intentional or representational content (and therefore does not demonstrate that feelings 'represent' properties in the sense of 'represent' that the perceptual-value theorist seeks, which I will call 'represent₂'), and this for three reasons.

First, represent₁ cannot be the same as represent₂ because whereas represent₁ is *ubiquitous*, represent₂ is possessed only by mental states and certain human artefacts, such as pictures and thermometers (on this point, see Strawson 2008).¹¹ Represent₁ is ubiquitous because for X to represent₁ Y is just a matter of X being caused by Y, but, of course, it then follows that *everything* represents₁ some other thing because everything is causally instantiated by some other thing (cp. Strawson 2008). And it does not help much to insist that intentional or representational content comes into play only when something has *evolved* to be caused by (hence, represent₁) some other thing. Although this would help to limit the amount of intentionality in the world, it would still give us far too much of it. For instance, it would entail that all biological processes and behaviours (including the behaviour of individual cells and their subparts) have intentional properties (cp. Strawson 2008).

Second, whereas represent₁ does not pick out a property of a mental state that is phenomenally manifest in the mental state (see above), the intentional or representational content of a mental state (or, in other words, the way in which an object is presented in

¹¹ But on the topic of the intentionality of artefacts, see fn. 12

mind) *is* a property of a mental state that is phenomenally manifest in a bona-fide representational mental state (cp. Siewert 1998, Horgan and Tienson 2002, Chalmers 2004, Pitt 2004, Crane 2007, Strawson 2008). Thus, the intentional content that something is dangerous is a property that is manifest in the thought that something is dangerous, and the representation of a red object in front of me is very much part of the phenomenology of a visual experience of a red object in front of me (cp. Chalmers 2004). And note that this is the case however the causal history of a mental representation is described. That the thought that something is dangerous has been caused by danger or a blow to the head will make no difference to the appearance of that thought; for whatever its cause that thought will manifest the intentional or representational content that something is dangerous. [And, of course, it will not help to insist that emotional feelings have representational or intentional content because they *evolved to be caused* by (hence, represent₁) particular properties, as that also is not a property that could be manifest in the feelings themselves].

The third reason (entailed logically by the second one just given) is that whereas represent₁ does not pick out a property that is of the nature of, or composes, the mental state in question, the intentional or representational content of a mental state *does* help compose the mental state in question. Represent₁ cannot help compose the mental state in question because represent₁ is a function only of a causal relation holding between the mental state and the thing that it represents₁ and, as Hume saw, causes are logically distinct from the things that they cause. But the intentional or representational content of a bona-fide representational mental state is *very much* part of the mental state in question. Thus the intentional content that something is dangerous is constitutive of my thought that something is dangerous, and the intentional or representational content of a red object in front of me is very much part of my visual experience of a red object in front of me.¹²

¹² This is just to say that bona-fide mental representational states, including thoughts and perceptual experiences, have 'original intentionality', that is to say, intentional properties that *inhere in*, or are

There must be a fundamental metaphysical difference then, between the sense of 'represent' being referred to when we say an experience represents something in virtue of its causal history (represent₁) and the sense of 'represent' being referred to when we say an experience has representational or intentional content (represent₂). There might be a sense of 'represent' in which feelings 'represent' (or have the function of representing₁) core relational themes, but, for the reasons just discussed, this fails to show that those feelings have the sought-after representational properties, and, therefore, fails to overturn the case for holding that those feelings have no such properties.

4

I conclude that my case against emotional feeling providing us with the needed perceptual modality continues to stand. Consequently, as I am unable to see what else in the case of emotion could provide us with a possible perceptual modality I am led to conclude also that the perceptual-value theory of emotion is false. Of course, this is consistent with holding that emotions might *lead us* to represent the world in particular ways (so for instance, fear might lead us to represent something as fearsome, and pleasure might lead us to represent things as being pleasurable or good), and if some form of moral projectivism is correct then

intrinsic to (or in other words, *constitute*) the mental state in question. [Original intentionality is often contrasted with 'derived intentionality', of course, which is supposed to be the sort of intentionality that physical artefacts, such as maps and fire-alarms, possess (cp. Searle 1983). But careful thought casts doubt on whether derived intentionality is a genuine form of intentionality, and not just a matter of our *projecting* intentional properties on physical objects, or our talking *as if* such objects have intentional properties (cp. Dennett 1987, Strawson 2008). Thus, considered in themselves, it is far from clear whether the lines on a map, for instance, or the noises emitted from fire-alarms, have any intentional properties. If they do not, then although talk about such objects having intentional properties is harmless as a *façon de parler*, we must avoid attaching any metaphysical weight to it].

our evaluative representations might even owe their nature to the emotions that causally generate them (see, for instance, Joyce 2006). But it is wrong to hold that emotions are themselves experiences of value.

If it is the case that emotions are not experiences of value should we give up representational theories of emotion altogether? Certainly some claims argued for in this paper might lead us to ask whether emotions are best described as non-representational mental states. Thus if emotions present phenomenologically as comprising feelings and if these feelings are non-representational by nature, might it be the case that emotions just *are* these feelings? Whether or not we should conclude this will depend in large part on how we think object-directed mental states, such as a *fear-of-a-dog* or *fear-of-my-falling-of-a-chair*, should be treated. If we judge that such mental states are to be treated as emotions then clearly we will have to conclude that at least some emotions (namely, the object-directed ones) do have representational properties and, therefore, cannot be feelings only. On the other hand, if we judge there is good reason for holding that such mental states are not emotions, but are compound mental states comprising emotions AND bona-fide mental representations (say, the thought of a dog in the case of *fear-of-a-dog*), then it might be much more justified to hold that emotions are nothing more than the feelings they comprise (and for a defence of a compound view of the 'object-directed emotions', see Author XXX).

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