



*The Science of Facial
Expression,*
José-Miguel Fernández-Dols,
James A. Russell (eds.)
Oxford University Press,
Oxford 2017, 540 pp.

The book edited by professors of psychology José-Miguel Fernández-Dols (Madrid University) and James A. Russell (Boston College) boasts more than 50 contributors, many of them well-known as P. Ekman, mostly from the US but also from Israel, Spain, Germany, Croatia, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. It is divided into eleven parts, entitled: “Introduction”, “The Great Debate: The Facial Expression Program”, “Evolution”, “Unexplored Signals”, “Neutral Process”, “Individual Development”, “Social Perception”, “Appraisal”, “Concepts”, “Social Interaction”, and “Culture”.

In the Introduction, the editors say: “These specialties and folk understanding may seem to be grounded in scientific research but the fact is that the relationship between scientific approaches and practical specialties is often problematic or, in a significant number of cases, nonexistent. Perhaps more surprising is that many scientific research projects and claims are based on the same set of folk ideas. (...) In the book we sought to survey the most telling psychological research on facial expressions, much of which was at odds with the assumptions of Darwin, the practical specialties, and folk beliefs. Since that publication, the field has continued to grow in quantity and quality. One of the purposes of the present book is to provide an updated review of the current psychology of facial expression.”

The book is recommended to everyone interested in detection of deception.

J.W.