

# Thinking about Social Phenomena

## *Constructing Puzzles*



*Lecture dt. Jan 30, 2020*

# Identify these emotions



Identify these emotions



Jealousy or envy?

Identify these emotions



Shame or guilt?

Identify these emotions



Sympathy or pity?

# Emotion

## **What is it?**

A mechanism that triggers action to satisfy a pressing concern (Petersen 2002)

*e.g. man in a forest hears sound of rustling leaves.*

Emotion? Fear.

Action? Flee or Fight.

Fear (emotion) acts as mechanism (an individual level, recognizable pattern) to cause action (fight/flight) because of a pressing concern (safety—hardwired in our species)

# Emotion

## **What is it?**

A mechanism that triggers action to satisfy a pressing concern (Petersen 2002)

*e.g. I steal my friend's notebook. She finds out.*

Emotion? Guilt.

Action? Apology.

Guilt (emotion) acts as mechanism to cause action (apology) because of a pressing concern (derision—moral norm).

# Emotion

## **What is it?**

A mechanism that can explain shifts in motivations; one desire becomes more dominant (Petersen 2002)

*In example of the man in a forest, safety becomes the dominant concern over self-esteem.*

e.g. You are not a wealthy person. You just bought bread. Suddenly a boy steals it and runs. You follow him to his shanty and come across an extremely poor family. What emotions and actions do you think you will go through?



# Evaluative emotions

A. Involve a positive or negative assessment of one's own or someone else's behaviour or character

- Guilt: triggered by –ve belief about own action
- Shame: triggered by –ve belief about own character

Behaviour or action?

Shame more intensely unpleasant than guilt

# Evaluative emotions

A. Involve a positive or negative assessment of one's own or someone else's behaviour or character

- Pride: triggered by +ve belief about own action
- Pridefulness: triggered by +ve belief about own character

Pride=achievement; pridefulness=arrogance

Behaviour or action?

# Evaluative emotions

A. Involve a positive or negative assessment of one's own or someone else's behaviour or character

- Anger: triggered by –ve belief about another's action
- Contempt or hatred :  
triggered by –ve belief about another's character

Behaviour or action?

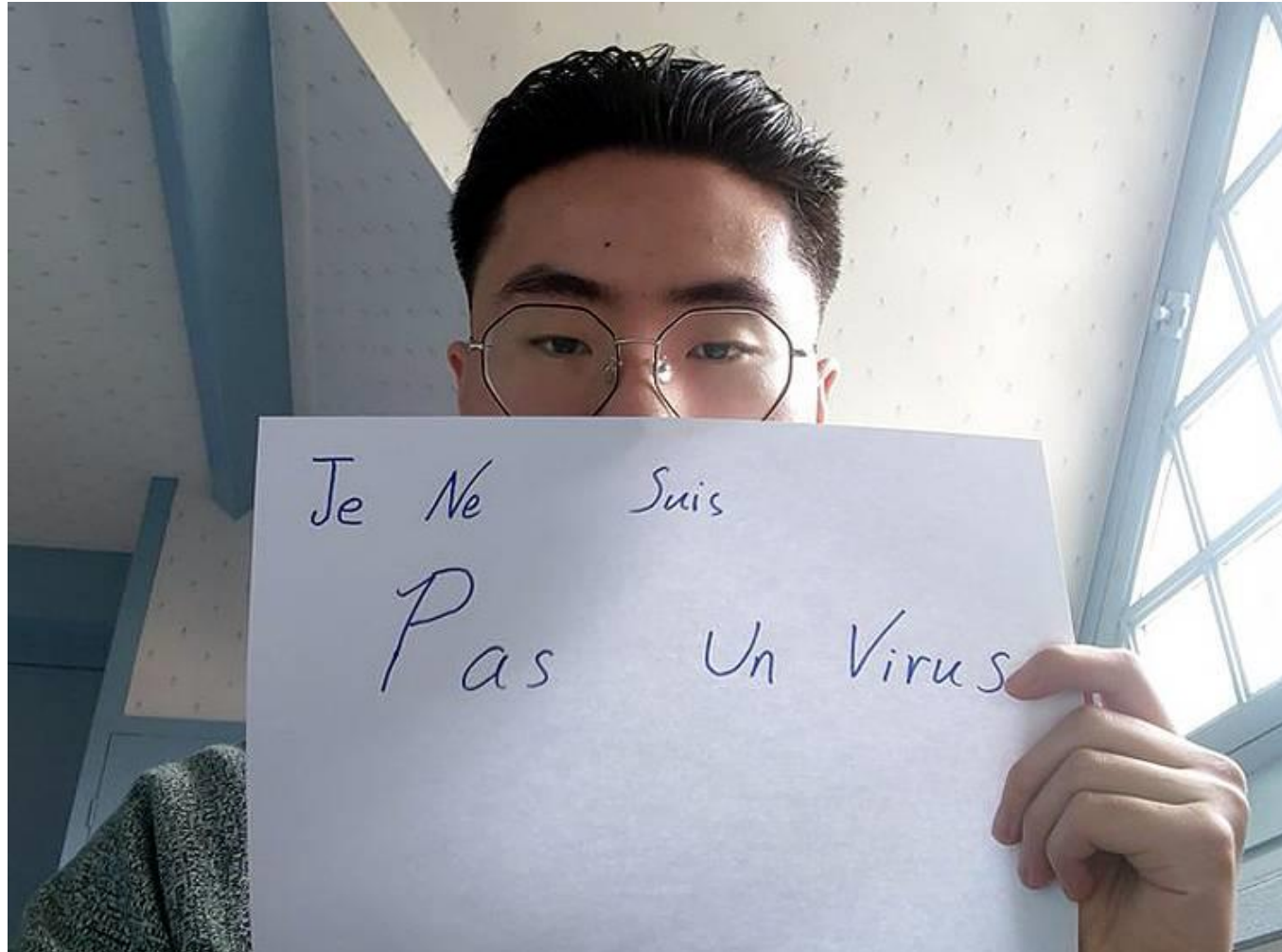
Contempt: discrimination; hatred: violence

# Evaluative emotions

e.g. You are not a wealthy person. You just bought bread. Suddenly a boy steals it and runs. You follow him to his shanty and come across an extremely poor family. What emotions and actions do you think you will go through?

- -ve belief about another's action towards oneself:  
*anger*
- *Sympathy/compassion*: deserved good of someone else [emotions based on the deserved or undeserved good or bad of someone]

'I am not a virus'



# Readings

Petersen, Roger. 2002. *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Elster, Jon (chapter 8, 'Emotions')