

## **From sentiment mining to mining embodied emotions. Emotional Styles on the Dutch Stage, 1600-1830**

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In the last few years, many disciplines have made a so-called "affective turn". Historians, linguists, psychologists, anthropologists, jurists, philosophers and theologians study the production, expression and transmission of emotions and the determining role emotions play in political, social, cultural and individual processes. Notwithstanding the growing attention to this central role, up till now few digital tools for emotion research have been developed. Sentiment analysis is a much-used method but it is mostly limited to binary text analyses or opinion mining.

"Embodied Emotions" is a new Digital Humanities project - based on a collaboration between Escience, VU, Meertens Institute and DBNL. Taking a historical approach, this project aims to develop a more complex form of sentiment mining. Through a sentiment mining analysis of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Dutch theatre texts, we will develop a method to trace "embodied emotions". Questions to be answered are: How were emotions expressed and "performed"? Where were emotions located in the body? What body parts were associated with which emotional expressions? Can we classify emotions by connecting them with bodily sensations? The theatrical world of the early modern period offers an excellent case to investigate the possibilities of "sentiment mining 2.0", of "mining emotion styles". Our goal is not only to develop gold standards for doing historical emotion research and to enrich sentiment mining techniques, we also wish to challenge a dominant paradigm in the social sciences: that emotions and their embodiment are universal and culturally non-specific.