

How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain by Lisa Feldman Barrett

Post by “Cassius” of April 16, 2021 at 10:02 AM

Yes and I want to repeat that I do not mean my comments to derail discussion of details of the LFB book. My main point is that to the extent we devote time to analyzing it under the category of anticipations it would be best if we make clear what view of anticipations we're talking about as we discuss her observations.

I'm not sure how to categorize the two competing alternatives, but they generally fall under something like (1) "anticipations as product of an innate faculty predating experience" vs (2) "anticipations as product of conceptual reasoning based on experience."

With one part of the issue being that those who advocate (2) either ignore (1) or contend that (1) does not exist.

I have no clue yet as to where to fit LFB into that paradigm. Presumably the answer to that comes from determining whether LFB believes that there are innate dispositions predating experience, or whether all mental processing occurs after, and based exclusively on, experience. Also, I really don't know if LFB has a position on what "truth" means.