

The Biological Basis of Affect: Synthesizing Neuroscience and the Humanities

Elise Martin, Class of 2023

Affect Theory, originally attributable to the philosopher Baruch Spinoza, is a multidisciplinary theory of mind, or more accurately, of mind and body. Spinoza conceptualized affect as

yielding insightful possibilities for understanding embodied affect. It sets it apart from other critical theories because an embodied phenomenon can be measured and affect can be investigated

I am now in the process of synthesizing information from both fields of research to create a depth report expanding on the biological basis of affect, speculating on how affect works in individuals and communities at a physiological level.

I found that the affect of Affect Theory was analogous to the physiological shifts that characterize particular emotions (for