

## **ACOUSTICS2008/2105**

### **Cultural variations and constants in emotional reactions to sounds**

Daniel Vastfjall

Chalmers University of Technology, Division of Applied Acoustics - Chalmers Room Acoustics Group, Sven Hultins gata 8a, 41296 Gothenburg, Sweden

In this talk I will argue that emotional reactions to sounds can be both constant and vary between different cultures. A model of sound perception that was developed by Chalmers room acoustics group, the Emotional Reaction Model (ERM) will be reviewed. The ERM predicts that emotional reactions to auditory events can be both elicited by 1) certain form features (eg. a steep rise time, a loud sound, a rough sound) and 2) content features (eg. the qualitative experience of the sound source; the loud, rough sound is a tiger roaring). The influence of form features are expected to be rather constant across people and cultures, while content features are expected to vary more between people. Empirical evidence supporting these predictions will be reviewed and the implications for our understanding sound perception will be discussed.