

## Emotional expression and emotional experience in Môbius Syndrome

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The cardinal features of Môbius Syndrome, a usually congenital sporadic genetic condition are absence of cranial nerves VI and VII, leading to absence of abduction of the eyes and absence of facial expression and movement. In addition there can be tongue and hearing deficits as well as poor motor control, clumsiness and hand and foot maldevelopment. Its relation to learning difficulties and autism remains uncertain.

The talk will give the narratives from a number of people with Môbius to give a view of the condition from the inside. These allow reflections on neonatal facial imitation, Cartesian dualism, the effects of a 'somatic straight-jacket' on others' expectation of children, pre-reflexive awareness of the other and, perhaps most of all, the need for embodied and social expression for the development of emotional experience.

### Reference

Jonathan Cole with Henrietta Spalding, *Inside Môbius*, OUP forthcoming.

