



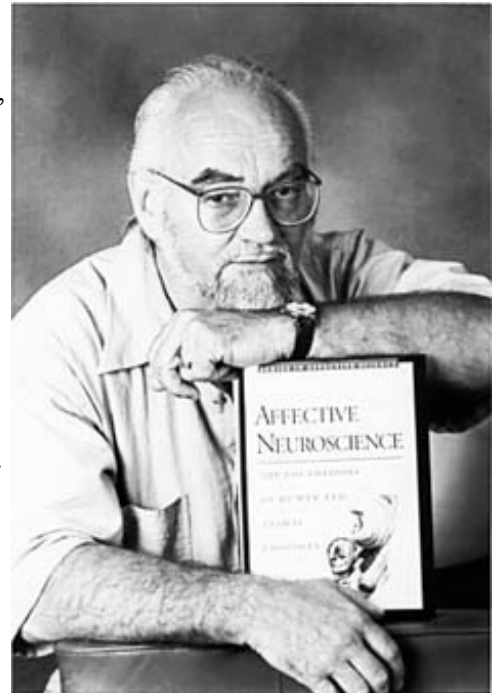
J.P. SCOTT CENTER FOR
NEUROSCIENCE
MIND & BEHAVIOR

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Jaak Panksepp

Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo (Ph.D., University of Massachusetts in behavioral neuroscience, 1969; postdoctoral work in feeding and nutrition at the University of Sussex in England and sleep physiology at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury, MA)
email: jpankse@bgnet.bgsu.edu
Office: 129 Psychology
Office phone: (419) 372-2819

His present research is devoted to the analysis of the neuroanatomical and neurochemical mechanisms of emotional behaviors (in the emerging field of affective neuroscience), with a focus on understanding how separation responses, social bonding, social play, fear, anticipatory processes, and drug craving are organized in the brain, especially with reference to psychiatric disorders. His past work in hypothalamic mechanisms of energy balance control was supported by a NIMH Research Scientist Development Award. He is author of over 200 scientific articles which deal with basic physiological mechanisms of motivated behavior. He is co-editor of the multivolume "Handbook of the Hypothalamus" and of "Emotions and Psychopathology." He is current editor of the series "Advances in Biological Psychiatry," and his text on Affective Neuroscience: The Foundations of Human and Animal Emotions just appeared from Oxford University Press. His general research orientation is that a detailed understanding of basic emotional systems at the neural level will highlight the basic sources of human values and the nature and genesis of emotional disorders in humans. He has helped develop the controversial opioid-antagonist therapy for autistic children based on his pre-clinical investigations into brain circuits which control social behaviors and is pursuing new therapies for the treatment of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD).



Research Interests:

- Brain processes
- Emotions and motivation
- Play
- Aggression, addiction, social behaviors, brain reward and punishment
- Autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders

The major focus of our research is trying to understand the instinctual operating systems of the brain which generate emotionality. To that end, we conduct research on the brain mechanisms of fear, anger, separation distress (panic), investigatory processes and anticipatory eagerness, as well as rough-and-tumble play. Approaches used are electrical brain stimulation, psycho-pharmacology, brain lesions and various neuroanatomical approaches. We are interested in relating this knowledge to clinical issues, have generated some new ideas for the treatment of autism, and have developed new animal models which may be useful for the analysis of the brain sub-strates that lead to psychiatric disorders. Other interests include brain control of eating and energy

balance regulation, and the brain mechanisms and energy functions of sleep.

Publications: Book - [Affective Neuroscience](#) and a [List of Publications](#)

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Pages created and maintained by **lobsterman, Sarah Bellum** and **Hip O'Campos**. Comments, suggestions and critiques welcome <lobsterman at caspar dot bgsu dot edu>

Center for Neuroscience, Mind & Behavior, Bowling Green State University, Life Sciences Building, Bowling Green, OH 43403, USA (419) 372-6984 Copyright © 1999 - 2003 Robert Huber. All rights reserved.

