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**The function of anger expressions: What's with all the yelling, and why does his face look like that?**

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Facial expressions of emotion have traditionally been thought of as signals of internal mental states and perhaps remnants of evolutionary solutions to adaptive problems (e.g. sticking out the tongue in disgust to eject food). However, if anger is an evolved adaptation designed by natural selection to regulate conflicts of interest over resources, then the displays that result from anger (particularly violent anger) should have the same function as non-human animal displays during conflict – namely, exaggerating one's apparent fighting ability (e.g. piloerections in cats). Studies are presented testing four related hypotheses: 1) humans should accurately detect fighting ability from photographs of bodies and faces; 2) humans should accurately detect fighting ability from speaking voices; 3) violent yells should exaggerate how strong an individual sounds; 4) the anger expression should consist of muscle movements that modify features of the face that are used to detect strength. Results suggest that many expressions of anger are designed to exaggerate one's fighting ability