

<http://somatosphere.net/?p=11772>

## Web Roundup: How Do You Feel Today?

2016-02-29 09:05:20

By Emily Goldsher-Diamond

[New Facebook reactions, the expansion of “like” options to include “love,” “sad” and “angry” emoticons \(among others\)](#), is just one way affect has collided with technology this month. Zuckerberg and co. collaborated with the [Greater Good Science Center](#) team to produce [“scientifically faithful” icons](#). No longer must you experience your feelings bounded within the body; instead, Facebook provides you with a convenient stable from which to choose and share with. Not only that, [but timelines will reflect your emotional feedback](#). Affective surveillance of this nature promises to be [quite valuable for marketers](#) and [Facebook’s engineers](#). But where does that leave users?

Perhaps it is helpful to think about the way Facebook reactions assume a stable link between the emoticon and the one emotion it represents. [Over at The Washington Post blog The Intersect, Caitlin Dewey makes the case for “secondary, non-semantic meanings for emoji — the ways people use certain symbols and icons that have nothing to do with their designer’s intent or the physical object that they correspond to in the real world.”](#) Did Facebook anticipate the freedom of lively images to stand in for a range of meanings, or is the site banking on the power of certain universal images (like the smiley face) to win over users? Then again, it is unlikely the change is truly about individual users. [Slate’s Amanda Hess writes, “Facebook’s business model relies on aggregating and interpreting data on a massive scale, so it makes sense to focus on developing behaviors that can be understood in the aggregate.”](#)

If you end up using the “angry” or “sad” icons too frequently, maybe your Facebook timeline will begin suggesting new mental health mobile applications like [Happify](#) and [Pacifica](#). If you need more human in your health app, you could turn to platforms that more closely replicate talk therapy like [Joyable](#) and [Talkspace](#). [One on hand](#), these are surely connected to our new sharing economy and [may address questions of access](#). On the other, [on what kind of science do these apps depend?](#) Whose values and biases are being designed and marketed as [a kind of care supported by evidence](#)? Telemedicine is not exactly new, but as a new kind of complementary medicine, these ventures are certainly worthy of further attention as new apps continue to disrupt the mental health landscape.

More links of interest:

[“The Stress Test: Rivalries, intrigue and and fraud in the world of stem cell research”](#) – The New Yorker

[“Evocative Object: Auditory inkblot”](#) – continent.

[“Anthropology Faces the Future”](#) – From Savage to Self Podcast (BBC Radio 4)

[“Don’t Panic: The smart city is here!”](#) – Ethnography matters

[“The Female Penis: an Investigation”](#) – The Awl

[“How to Think About Bots”](#) – Motherboard

[“A Scanner Constantly: Living with a brain tumor can often mean feeling reduced to your clinical records”](#) – Pacific Standard

#### **AMA citation**

Goldsher-Diamond E. Web Roundup: How Do You Feel Today?.  
*Somatosphere*. 2016. Available at: <http://somatosphere.net/?p=11772>.  
Accessed February 29, 2016.

#### **APA citation**

Goldsher-Diamond, Emily. (2016). *Web Roundup: How Do You Feel Today?*. Retrieved February 29, 2016, from Somatosphere Web site:  
<http://somatosphere.net/?p=11772>

#### **Chicago citation**

Goldsher-Diamond, Emily. 2016. Web Roundup: How Do You Feel Today?. Somatosphere. <http://somatosphere.net/?p=11772> (accessed February 29, 2016).

#### **Harvard citation**

Goldsher-Diamond, E 2016, *Web Roundup: How Do You Feel Today?*, Somatosphere. Retrieved February 29, 2016, from <<http://somatosphere.net/?p=11772>>

#### **MLA citation**

Goldsher-Diamond, Emily. "Web Roundup: How Do You Feel Today?." 29 Feb. 2016. *Somatosphere*. Accessed 29 Feb. 2016.<<http://somatosphere.net/?p=11772>>