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Oxytocin: the neurochemical mediator of social life

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Propositions belonging to the thesis

OXYTOCIN: THE NEUROCHEMICAL MEDIATOR OF SOCIAL LIFE

A pharmaco-behavioral and neurobiological study in male rats

by Federica Calcagnoli

1. Animal models of human neuropsychiatric disorders rarely include the pathology itself.
2. Violence should be considered a pathological form of aggression accompanied by a deviance in its oxytocinergic control.
3. It is scientifically incorrect to say that humans have a "violent brain" (*Seville statement*, 1986).
4. There is no more reason to believe that man fights wars because fish or beavers are territorial than to think that man can fly because bats have wings (Ashley Montagu, *Man and Aggression*, 1968).
5. Phenotypic variation in overt aggression is associated with variability in the brain oxytocinergic system (*this thesis*, chapter 5).
6. There is still insufficient conclusive evidence in support of the direct nose-to-brain transport (*this thesis*, chapter 6).
7. Hugs can stop and perhaps prevent aggression.
8. Overdose of oxytocin might facilitate the development of addiction.
9. The popularization of basic scientific findings may hamper scientific thinking.
10. The confidence of a scientist is based on his/her "might".
11. The tiresome process of scientific publishing needs more oxytocin.