

Affective Computing: Bridging Computer and Affective Sciences

Preconference at the 2026 [Society for Affective Science \(SAS\) Annual Meeting](#)

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Affective computing is the interdisciplinary study and development of systems that can recognize, interpret, simulate, or respond to human emotions. By combining methods from artificial intelligence, psychology, neuroscience, and the social sciences, affective computing seeks to better understand and model the complex interplay between emotion and behavior. In an era increasingly shaped by human–AI interaction, affective computing provides powerful tools to advance affective science, while affective science offers crucial theoretical grounding for ethical and human-centered technological innovation.

Building on our prior preconferences at SAS (2017) and ISRE (2019, 2022, 2024), this event will bring together researchers working at the intersection of affective science and computer science. We will have keynote presentations by Kristen Lindquist (OSU) and Carlos Busso (CMU). We also invite submissions that showcase cutting-edge work using computational methods—such as machine learning, signal processing, natural language processing, computer vision, or multimodal modeling—to study affective phenomena in humans.

We especially encourage contributions that:

- Focus on human affect, emotion, or interpersonal communication
- Integrate computational and theoretical perspectives
- Bridge disciplinary boundaries between affective science, computer science, and related fields

Abstract submissions are welcome for both **oral presentations** and **poster sessions**. All accepted work will contribute to an engaging, cross-disciplinary dialogue on the future of affective computing and its role in understanding emotion in context.

Schedule

08:00 - 08:20	Welcome and Opening
08:20 - 09:20	Keynote: Kristen Lindquist (OSU)
09:20 - 10:00	Flash Talk Session
10:00 - 10:20	Break
10:20 - 11:20	Keynote: Carlos Busso (CMU)
11:20 - 12:00	Poster Session

For questions, please contact the organizers:

Jeffrey Girard, Ph.D. (University of Kansas, jmgirard@ku.edu)

Jonathan Gratch, Ph.D. (University of Southern California, gratch@ict.usc.edu)

Accepted Flash Talks

1. The Universal Smile is Person-Specific
Inbal Ravreby, Lucy Hartz, Manmeet Lamba, Adam Anderson
2. Multidimensional Semantic Features Distinguish Emotion Concepts
Helen Schmidt, Chelsea Helion
3. Identifying Language-Specific Emotion Terms Using Representations from Large Language Models
Yoonwon Jung, Aaron Cohen, Benjamin Bergen
4. Using AI to Generate Affective Images: Methodology and Initial Library
Maciej Behnke, Lai-Gai Team
5. Clarifying the Relationship Between Affect and Reward Prediction Error
Dulhan Abeysiriwardana, Thalia Vrantsidis

Accepted Posters

1. A Digital Shoulder to Cry On: What Large Language Models Reveal About Effective Extrinsic Emotion Regulation
Yuhui Chen, Sarah Walker, Belén López-Pérez
2. A Value-Updating Perspective on Emotions
Thalia Vrantsidis
3. Acoustic Signatures of Risk for Self-Injurious Thoughts and Behaviors During Adolescence
Matthew Cotter, Amber Pereira, Jennifer Silk, Cecile Ladouceur, Lori Scott, Caroline Oppenheimer, Jennifer Silvers, Razia Sahi, Kiera James
4. Beyond Diagnostic Boundaries: A Computational Framework for Latent Cognitive–Affective Profiling Across Psychopathology
Angela Zhong, Kean Hsu, Janna Vrijzen, Indira Tendolkar, Philip Van Eindhoven
5. Is there Consistency and Specificity of Autonomic Changes in Mixed, Negative and Positive Emotions? An Affective Computing Approach
Chantale Geissler, Andrea Samson, James Gross, Sylvia Kreibitz
6. LLMs Appraise Emotions as Well as Humans Do (or Better)
Noa Oded, Matan Rubin, Shir Genzer, Anat Perry
7. LLMs for Multimodal Behavior
Parisa Ghanad Torshizi, Stacy Marsella
8. Reflect, Refine, Repeat: A Systems-Oriented, Human-in-The-Loop Framework for Self-Directed Emotion Regulation
Kiera Evangelist
9. The Dynamics of Delusion: Bidirectional Influence in Human-LLM Dialogue
Ashish Mehta, Jared Moore, Nick Haber,
10. Visual Affect Analysis: Predicting Emotions of Image Viewers with Vision-Language Models
Filip Nowicki, Hubert Marciniak, Jakub Łączkowski, Krzysztof Jassem Jassem, Tomasz Górecki, Vimala Balakrishnan, Desmond Ong, Maciej Behnke