

**BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES
OF INFANT TEMPERAMENT: THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN
ANIMA AND PERSONA**

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Abstract

Infants were classified at four months based on behavioral reactivity to a series of visual, olfactory, and auditory stimuli. At 10 years of age, those children who had been classified as High Reactive infants differed from Low Reactive infants in both behavioral and physiological measures. High reactive infants displayed a more subdued phenotype at age 10 compared to those children who had been low reactive infants. They smiled less and made fewer spontaneous comments. In addition, the physiological measures revealed differential profiles for the two groups. At 10 years, children who were High Reactive infants showed greater activation of the peripheral sympathetic nervous system evidenced by more sympathetic tone in the cardiac signal, as well as differences in neurophysiological measures including greater right frontal activation and larger wave V components. These findings suggest that the two groups inherited different profiles of limbic excitability that continues to express itself through behavior and physiology, at least into later childhood and probably beyond.

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