

Why do we like or dislike animals?

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Socio-spatial Analysis

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Liking or disliking animals can be constituted by different mechanisms and causes

- 1 Innate sensitivity for biological movement
- 2 Inherited quick learning programs
- 3 Mental dispositions from conditioning
- 4 Innate tendency to react to emotional expressions
- 5 Knowledge influencing interpretation of emotion
- 6 Knowledge turning on emotional reactions

Animals are strong emotional triggers

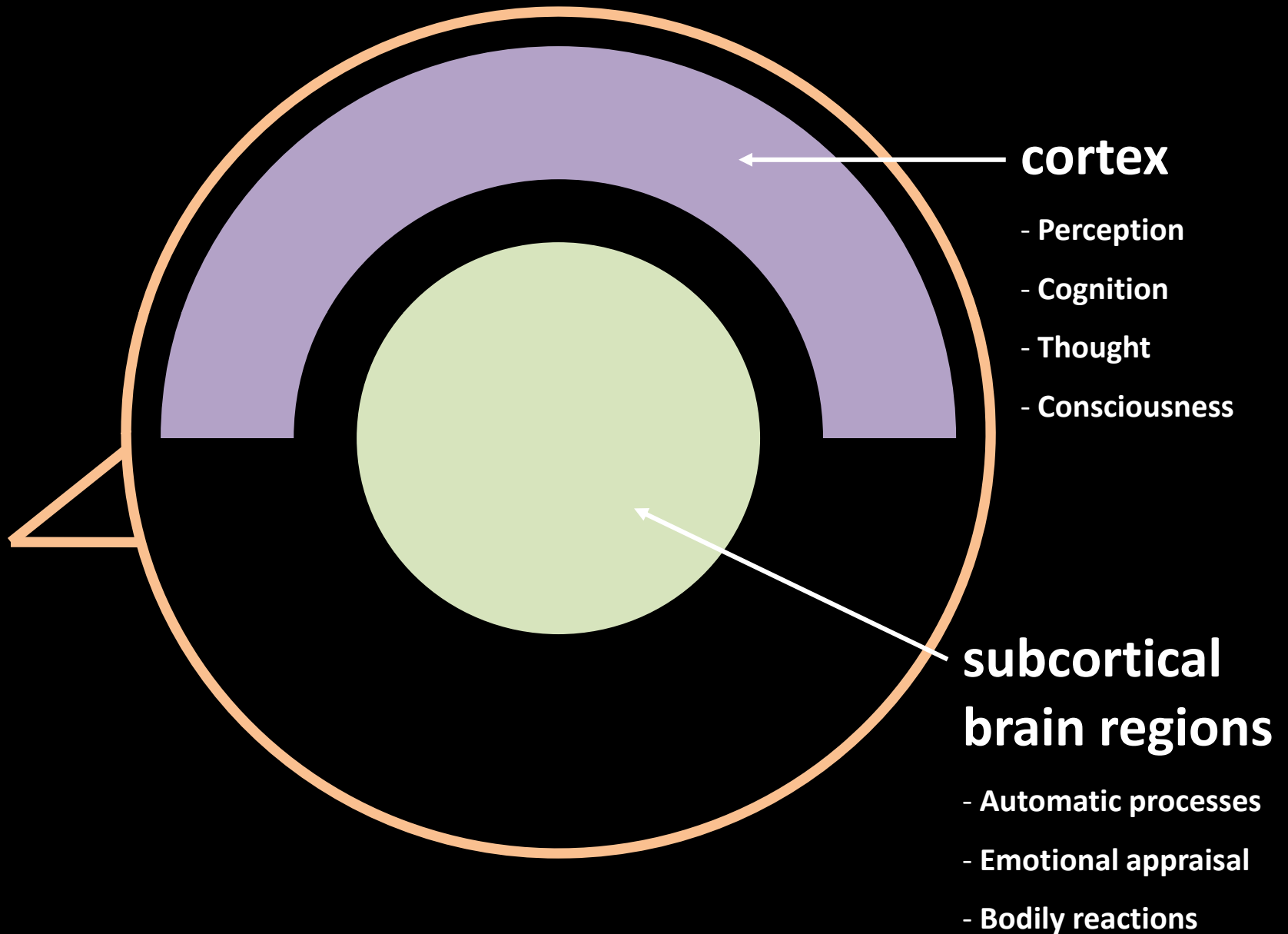


Liking/disliking are manifestations of emotions

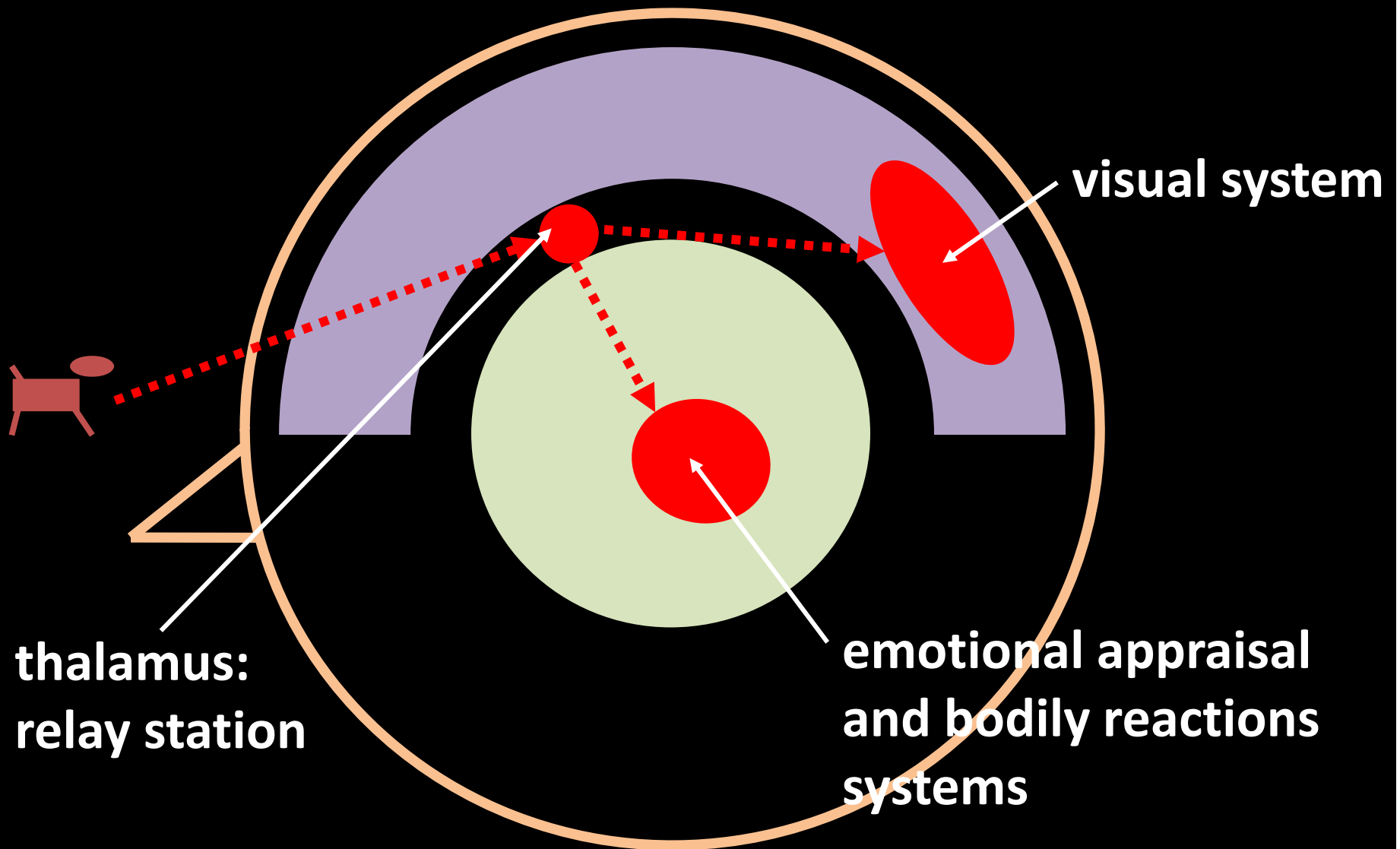


- Emotional triggers (e.g. animals)
- Appraisal (judgment of emotional relevance)
- Emotional bodily reactions (e.g. heart beat, face)
- Emotional experiences (including core affect)

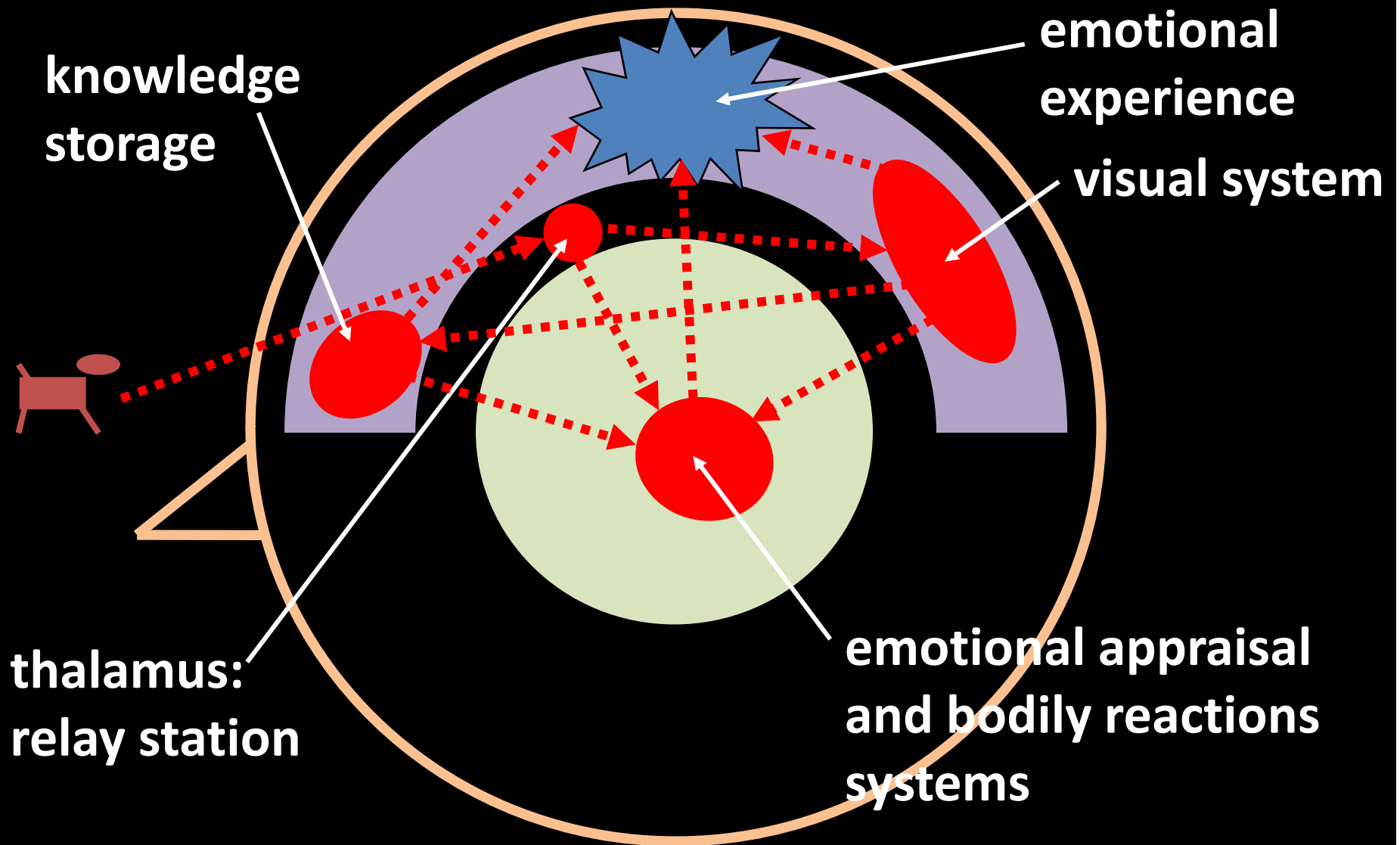
Emotions are processed by different brain regions



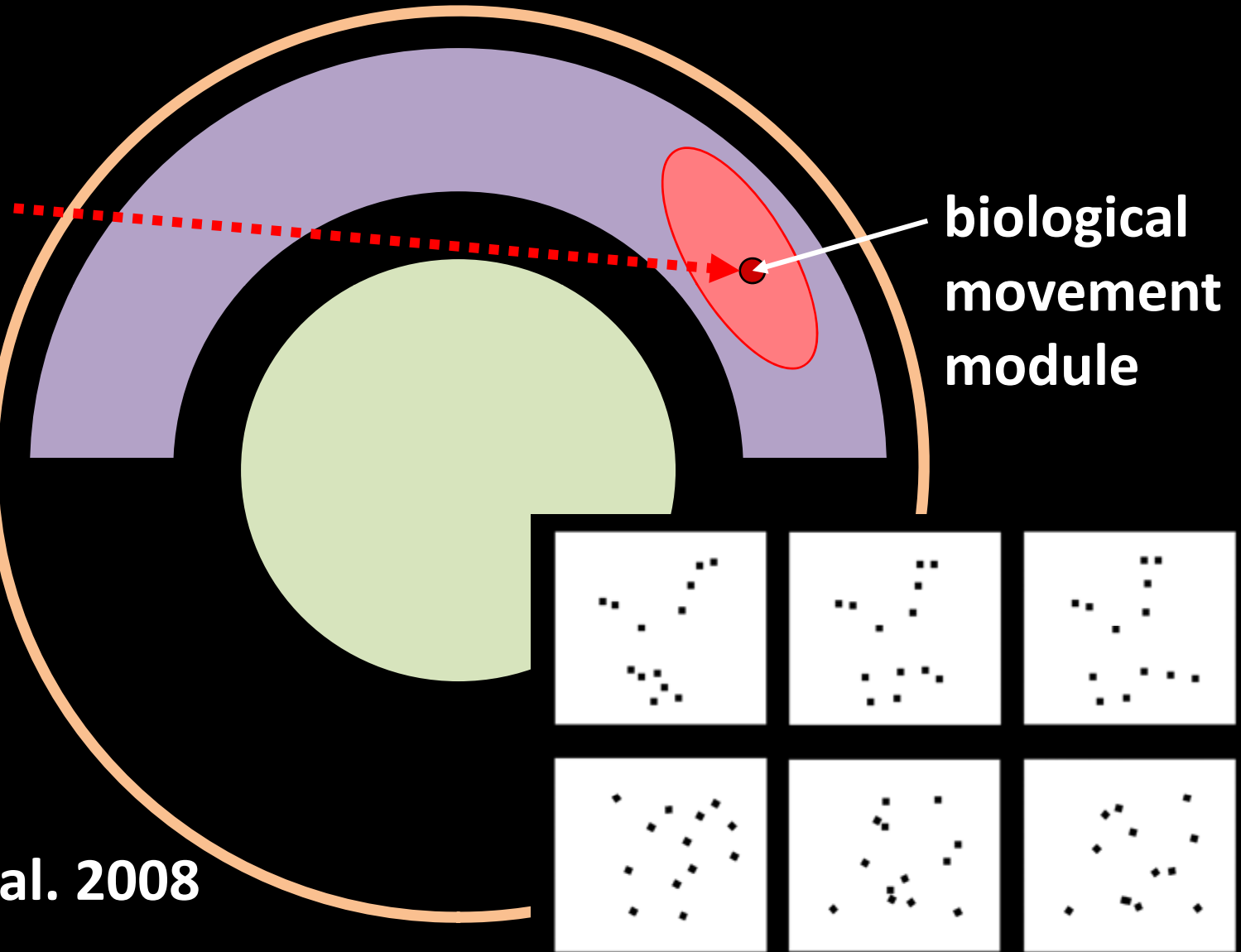
Perceptual and emotional system are distinctive systems



Distinctive brain systems interact

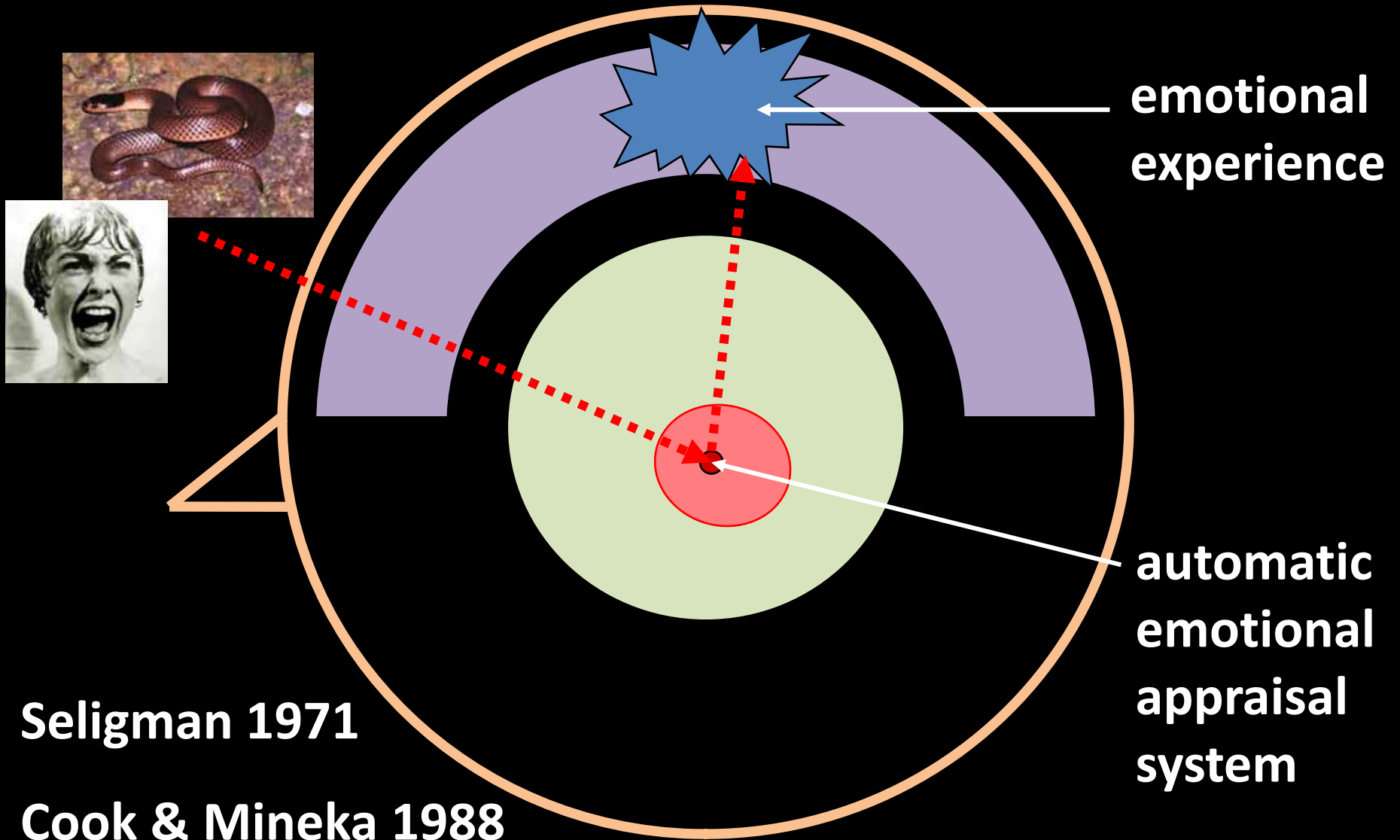


1 The visual system has an innate sensitivity for biological movement

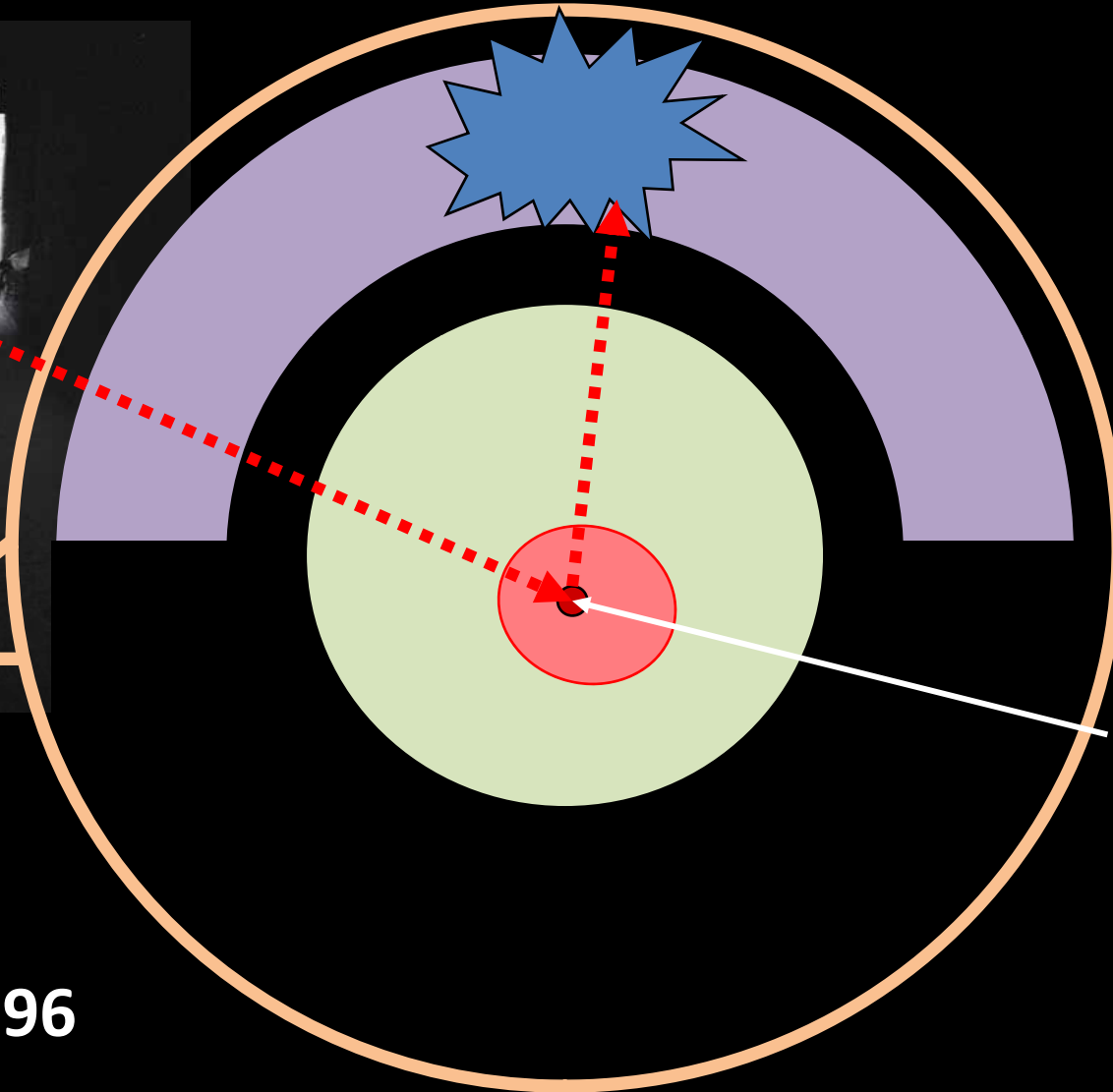
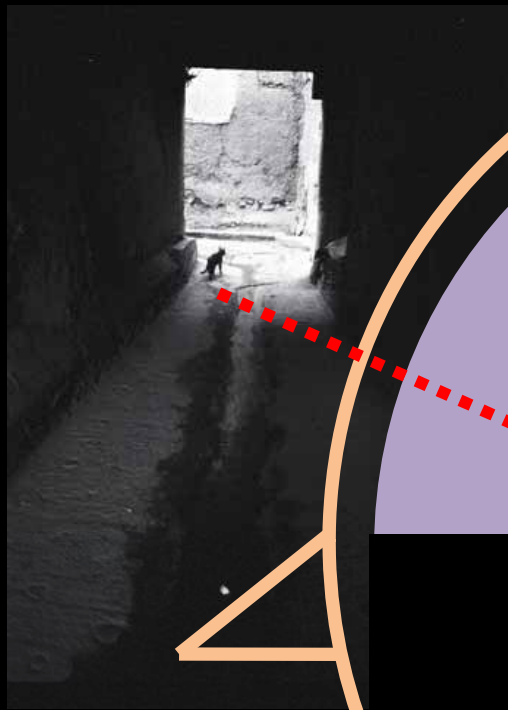


Simion et al. 2008

2 We have quick learning programs to respond emotionally to some animals (preparedness)



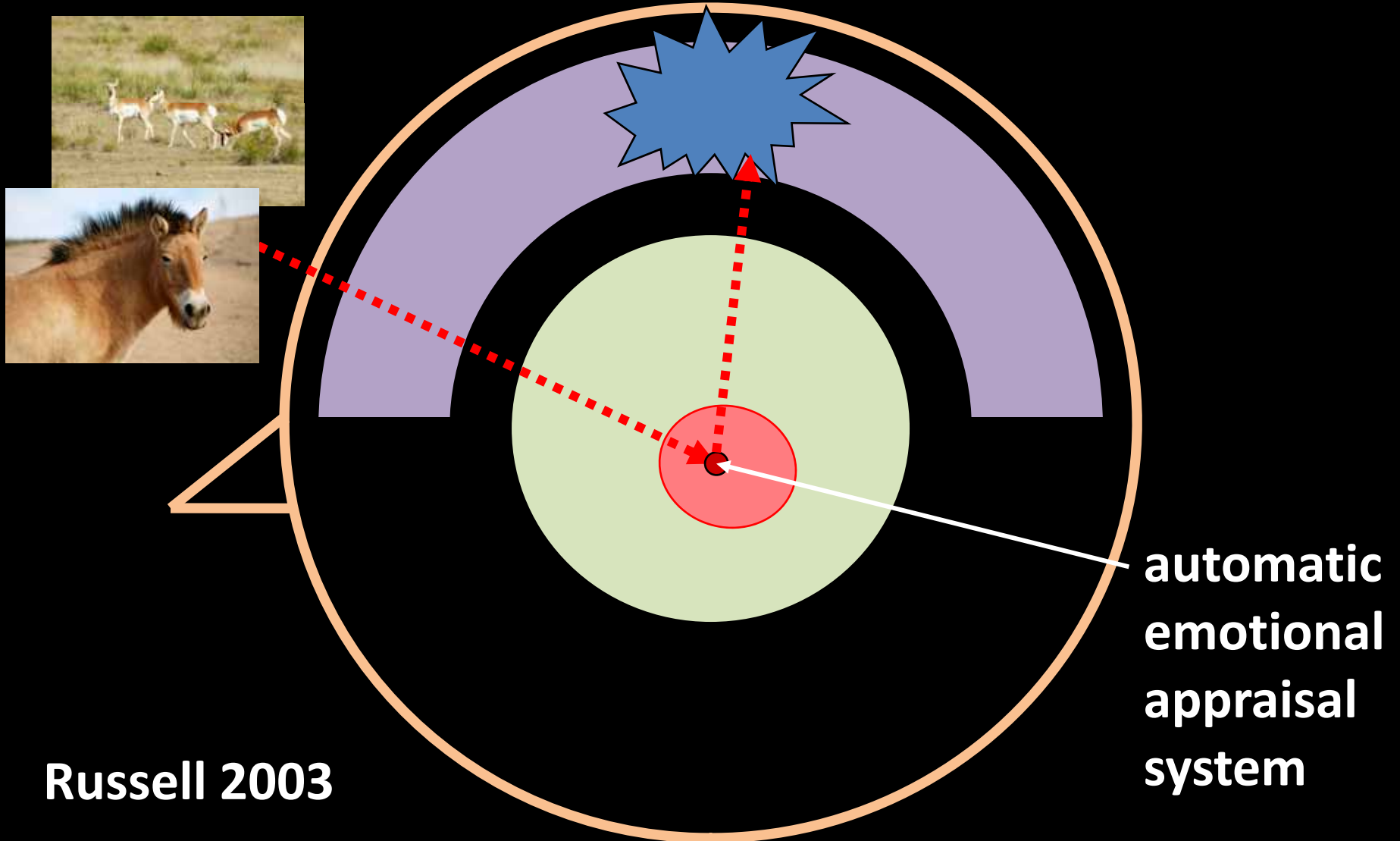
3 Conditioning results in mental dispositions to respond emotionally to some animals



automatic
emotional
appraisal
system

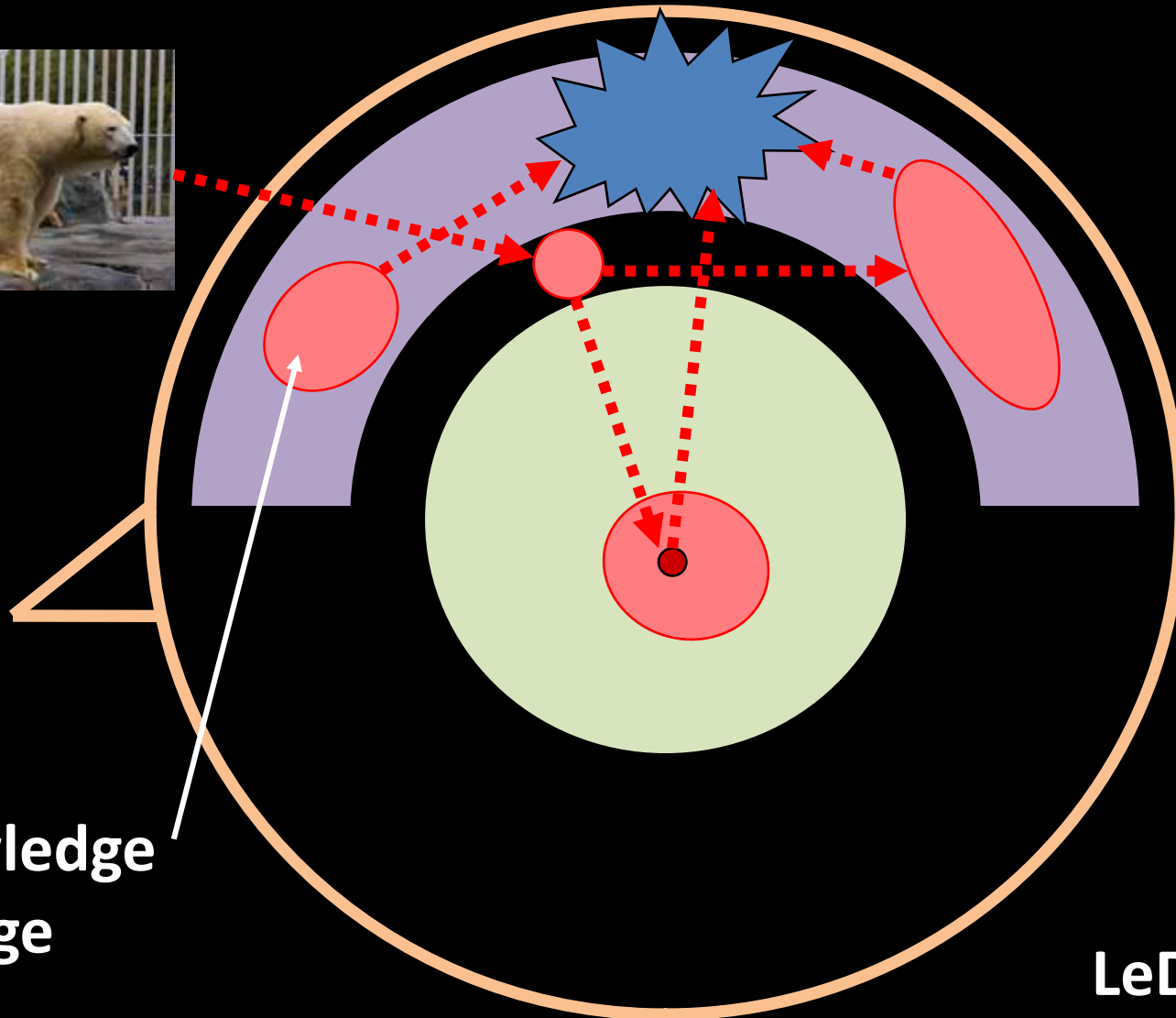
LeDoux 1996

4 We have an innate tendency to respond emotionally to emotional expressions of animals



Russell 2003

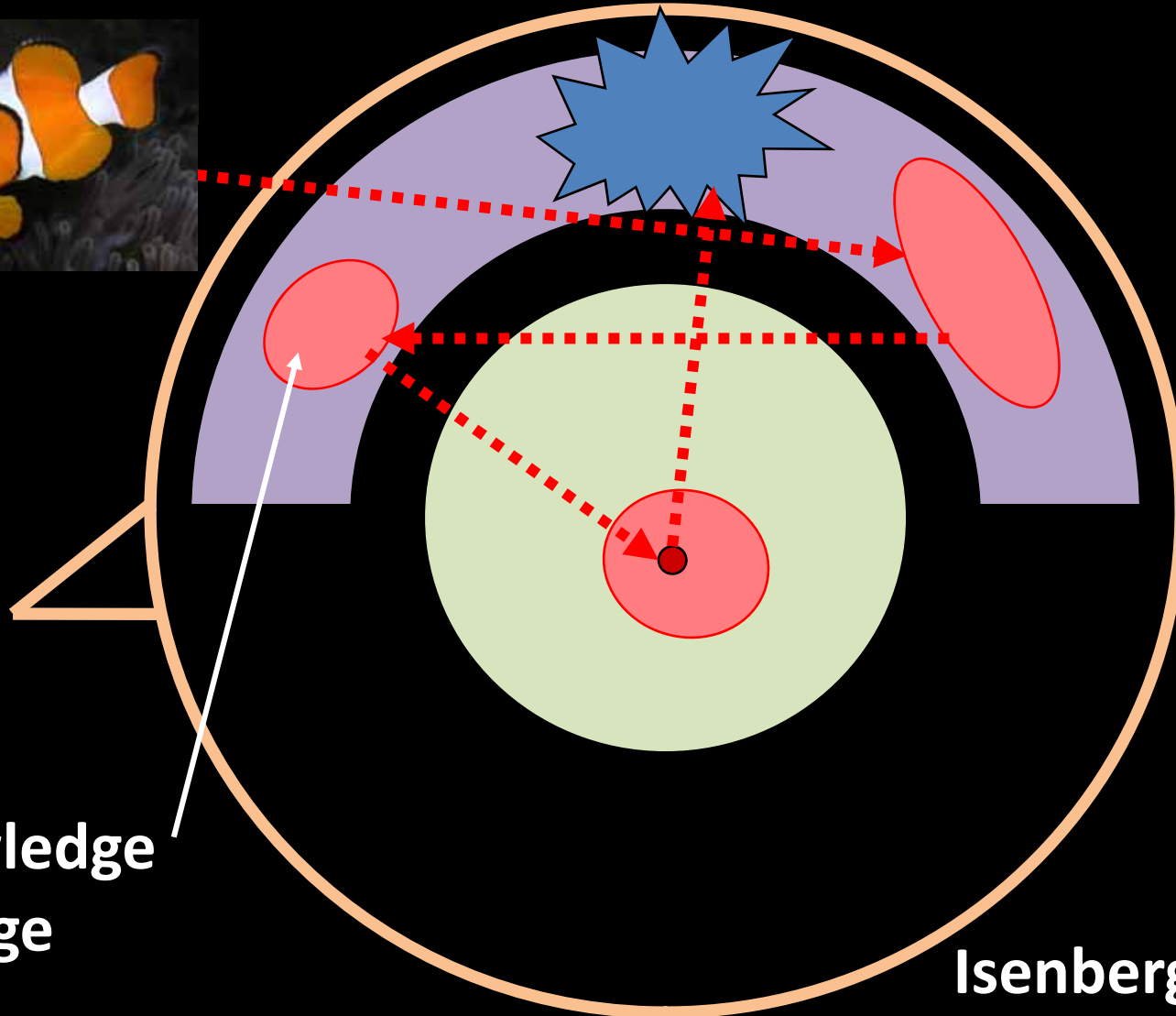
5 Acquired knowledge can influence the interpretation of emotional reactions



knowledge
storage

LeDoux 1996

6 Acquired knowledge can turn on emotional reactions



knowledge
storage

Isenberg et al. 1999

Conclusion: why do we like or dislike animals?

<u>Internal cause</u>	<u>Brain structures</u>	<u>Individual/ cultural/ universal</u>	<u>Animals (external cause)</u>	<u>Example animal</u>
Innate biological movement sensitivity	Visual system (probably)	Universal	All moving animals	Walking hen
Preparedness = innate quick learning programs	Automatic emotional appraisal system	Universal	Animals relevant for the survival of our ancestors	Snake
Dispositions resulting from conditioning	Automatic emotional appraisal system	Individual	Theoretically, any animal	Cat
Innate disposition to react to emotional expressions	Automatic emotional appraisal system	Universal	Stronger for animals that are phylo-genetically closer to us	Antelope
Knowledge that influences interpretation	Cognitive system	Cultural and individual	Theoretically, any animal	Bear behind bars
Knowledge that turns on emotional reaction	Cognitive system	Cultural and individual	Any animal to which special meanings are ascribed	Clownfish (Nemo)

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