

## Abstract

Affective touch has been a prominent topic in behavioral psychology. However, previous research has emphasized touch receiving at the expense of touch giving, even though both bring about emotional, regulatory, developmental, and social advantages. Besides, the differentiation between the two concurrent behavior has been overlooked, although the toucher and touchee evidently differ in body movement and position, skin type/site, and role. In particular, in non-reciprocal touch, the toucher initiates the contact with intention and usually touches with glabrous skin, whereas the touchee being still and motivated to receive the touch with hairy skin. Such differences suggest that touching and being touched may serve dissimilar functions and their outcomes may vary in magnitude. To date, only a couple of studies attempted to enlighten on such an issue and failed to provide a comprehensive picture. This paper also reviewed several self-touch research, with a view to gain some insights that can extend to interpersonal touch. It was revealed that the touching sites attenuate adaptively according to the context, while the touched sites are less attenuated so that self-touch can act as a substitute of affective touch. After all, current knowledge regarding the discrepancy between touch giving and receiving is inadequate and future research addressing such matter is necessary.

Keywords:

Affective touch, Touch giving, Touch receiving, C-tactile afferent, A-beta afferent, Autonomic regulation, Proprioception, Glabrous skin, Hairy skin, Role, Self-touch, Sensory attenuation