

Coprolalia functional?

WTF?!

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“I swear it is Tourette's!": On functional coprolalia and other tic-like vocalizations



Christos Ganos^{a,b}, Mark J. Edwards^c, Kirsten Müller-Vahl^{d,*}

functional coprolalia increased... particularly over the last decade, owing, we believe, to raised awareness concerning GTS, as a result of media coverage

	FTLB n=9	Tic disorders n=24	
Coprolalia	67%	4%	p=0.0004

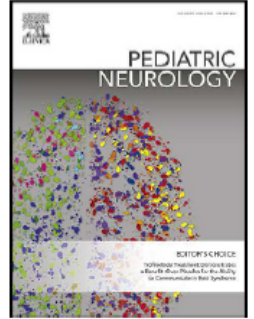
Pringsheim & Martino, 2021



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Review Paper

What Do We Currently Know About Functional Tic-Like Behaviors: A Topical Review



Kaja Andersen, BSc^{a,b,*}, Natalia Szejko, MD, PhD^{c,d}, Kirsten R. Müller-Vahl, MD^c,
 Andrea E. Cavanna, MD, PhD^{e,f,g}, Tammy Hedderly, MD^h, Erica Greenberg, MDⁱ,
 Nanette Mol Debes, MD, PhD^{a,b}

Variable	TS	FTLB and FTLB + TS	TS	FTLB and FTLB + TS	TS	FTLB and FTLB + TS
	Coprolalia (%)	Coprolalia (%)	Copropraxia (%)	Copropraxia (%)	Coprophenomena (%)	Coprophenomena (%)
Number of studies	4	4	3	3	3	5
Average	6.9%	56.6%	4.6%	45.1%	19.5%	63%
Min	4%	38.5%	2%	37%	1.8%	30.2%
Max	10%	77%	7.69%	53.8%	28.1%	96.9%

swearing ≠ coprolalia

Swearing – possible explanations

- Upset
- Learned behaviour
- Emotional emphaziser
- Social bonding
- Coprolalia
- Functional
- Malingering

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- Upset
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- **Coprolalia**
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Marquise de Dampierre – *Jean-Gaspard Itard, 1825*

*“...interrupts what she is saying or hearing with bizarre cries and words that are even more extraordinary and contrast deplorably with her intellect and her distinguished manners. These words are mostly **vulgar curses, obscene epithets**, and, what is no less embarrassing for her and others listening, **blunt expressions of judgment or unfavorable opinions** of those present in society.”*

CLINIQUE NERVEUSE

ÉTUDE SUR UNE AFFECTION NERVEUSE CARACTÉRISÉE PAR
DE L'INCOORDINATION MOTRICE ACCOMPAGNÉE D'ÉCHO-
LALIE¹ ET DE COPROLALIE² (JUMPING, LATAH, MYRIACHIT);

Par GILLES DE LA TOURETTE.

Bouteille, qui, à l'âge de quatre-vingts ans, profitant de l'expérience qu'il avait acquise par de longues années de pratique, écrivait son *Traité de la Chorée*, s'écriait dans son *Avant-propos*³ : « Tout est extraordinaire dans cette maladie : son nom est ridicule, ses symptômes singuliers, son caractère équivoque, sa cause inconnue, son traitement problématique. De graves auteurs ont douté de son existence, d'autres l'ont crue simulée,

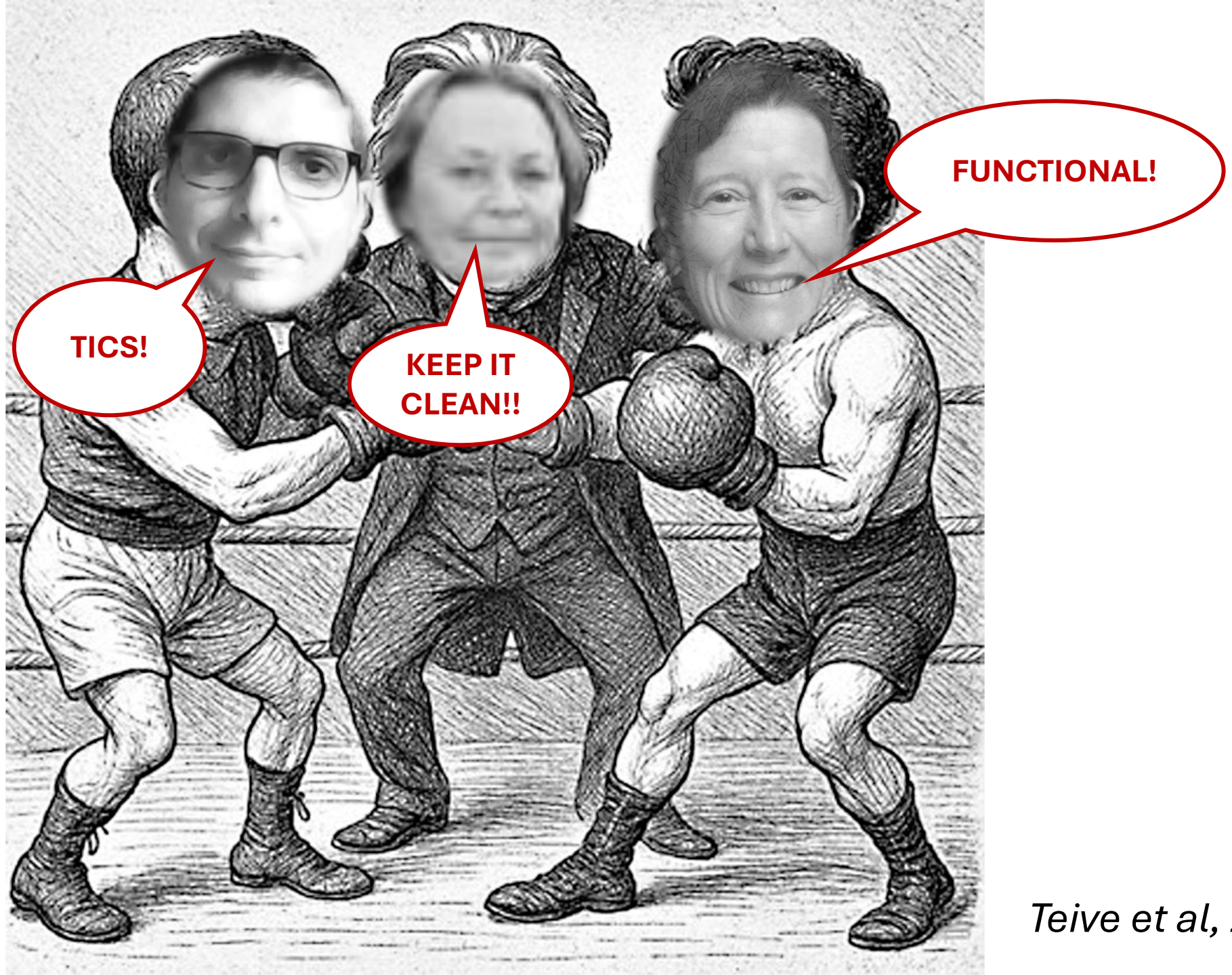
This is the remarkable phenomenon, among all the others, that Gilles de la Tourette, in his interesting work on the tic disease, ingeniously designated using the term ‘coprolalia’

Jean-Martin Charcot, October 23, 1888

Walusinsky, 2026

Coprolalia – Gilles de la Tourette, 1885

- "shit-talking"
- *the obscene expression that their upbringing and mental state should have protected them against*
- *not found in all subjects*
- **Hysteria?**



TICS!

KEEP IT CLEAN!!

FUNCTIONAL!

The Rise and Fall of Psychoanalysis – *Freud*

- uncorrected infantile habits in a population with hereditary weakness – *Meige and Feindel 1902*
- eruptive cursing a symbolic and linguistic substitute for masturbation – *Ferenczi 1921*
- repressed childhood sexual conflicts – *Mahler 1944*
- last ‘desperate defense against psychosis’
- haloperidol – *Seignot 1961, Shapiro and Shapiro 1968*

Related phenomena

- Intrusive egodystonic obsessions
- L'appel du vide

Journal of Affective Disorders 136 (2012) 1114–1120



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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jad



Preliminary communication

An urge to jump affirms the urge to live: An empirical examination of the high place phenomenon

Jennifer L. Hames, Jessica D. Ribeiro, April R. Smith, Thomas E. Joiner Jr. *

ABNORMAL AND NORMAL OBSESSIONS

S. RACHMAN and P. DE SILVA

Psychology Department, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London, SE5 8AF

	Male	Female	Total
Positive	47 (82.5)*	57 (85.1)	104 (83.9)
Negative	10 (17.5)	10 (14.9)	20 (16.1)
Total	57	67	124

Rachman & de Silva, 1978

Continuum?

