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TIT-FOR-TAT: THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECIPROCITY FROM A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE



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Reciprocity provides a powerful evolutionary mechanism for sustaining cooperation because current costs can be outweighed by long-term benefits. When two individuals interact repeatedly and reciprocate favors, both individuals are better off in the long-term than if they always act selfishly. Human cooperation is thought to be grounded in the uses of reciprocity in ways that no other species' is. Yet, very little is known about the origins and development of human reciprocity. Here, I present a series of studies that investigate how reciprocity develops in children aged 2.5 to 7 years: When children start responding accordingly to previous kindness/meanness (past-driven reciprocity) and when do they use reciprocity in anticipation of subsequent benefits (future-oriented reciprocity). Additionally, I present data on the postulated relationship between the ability to delay gratification (for a better future reward) and reciprocity (for future returned benefits). I discuss the results in light of the hypothesis that over development, children become increasingly able to use cooperative behaviors for strategic purposes and utilize reciprocity to ensure long-term benefits; this development being based on our inordinately capability and motivation to share attention, emotions and information with others.

HOST: WJCR

23 MAIO 2016

12H30

SALA DE ATOS

ENTRADA LIVRE



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