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The Cultural Origins of Human Cognition

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Humans are biologically adapted for culture in ways that other primates are not. Uniquely human forms of social understanding and cultural learning emerge in human ontogeny at around one year of age as infants begin to engage with other persons in various kinds of joint attentional activities, including linguistic communication. Comparisons to the social cognition of apes helps to specify in more detail the nature of uniquely human social cognition and cultural learning.