

UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

Conflict between self and other in the development of perspective tracking

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4f53q662>

Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 44(44)

Authors

Yeung, Emanuela

Askitis, Dimitrios

Manea, Velisar

et al.

Publication Date

2022

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

Conflict between self and other in the development of perspective tracking

Emanuela Yeung

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Dimitrios Askitis

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Velisar Manea

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Victoria Southgate

Copenhagen University, Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract

We examine whether infants and young children experience “conflict” between their own perspective and that of another in a false belief scenario. Based on the altercentric hypothesis, we propose that young infants can track the perspective of others because they lack a competing self-perspective. With the emergence of self-awareness, children may then be able to generate a representation of their own perspective and only then does this become a competitor to the perspective cued by others. To test this, we presented 18- and 42-month-olds with a perspective-conflict scenario and used pupil diameter as an index of conflicting processing. Half of the 18-month-olds passed the mirror self-recognition (MSR) task. Functional t-tests showed that MSR recognizers had greater dilation during the anticipatory phase compared to non-recognizers. Data collection with 42-month-olds is ongoing; preliminary results from pilot data suggests that the pupil trace of the 42-month-olds is similar to the MSR recognizers.