

Evolution of Phenomenological Normativity

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Humans are Normative



The sources of normativity: Young children's awareness of the normative structure of games. Rakoczy, Hannes; Warneken, Felix; Tomasello, Michael
Developmental Psychology, Vol 44(3), May 2008, 875-881.

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- 7 Properties of deontic reasoning.

Precursors of human normativity

- 1 Expectation and surprise, mistake, primitive social emotions, imagination.
- 2 Intention reading: gaze following, joint attention, understanding communicative intentions, role reversal imitation.
- 3 Pro-social behavior
- 4 A social lifestyle: social and pretend play (9mo infants), alloparenting
- 5 Learned and intentional signaling



The basic idea

- 1 Psychological precursors of human normativity,
- 2 coupled with social life and proto-language, enabling primitive deliberation,
- 3 lead to increasingly refined phenomenological normativity, as well as increasingly sophisticated human language.

Co-Evo-Devo process

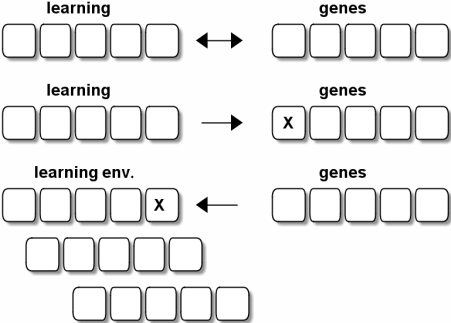
- 1 Genetic assimilation (and partial assimilation)
- 2 Cultural niche construction and “cultural assimilation”
- 3 Developmental scaffolding



Assimilate and stretch



Cultural assimilation



Assimilate and Stretch

Cultural assimilation

Example 1. Ontogenetic Ritualization

Marentette, P., and E. Nicoladis. 2012. "Does ontogenetic ritualization explain early communicative gestures in human infants?" In *Developments in Primate Gesture Research*, ed. S. Pika and K. Liebal. Benjamins.

Example (Picture)

Picture of infant gesturing pick-me-up.

Example 2. Peekaboo



Ratner, N., and J. S. Bruner. 1978. "Games, Social Exchange and the Acquisition of Language." *Journal of Child Language* 5: 391–401.

Example 3. Temporal conjunctions, modal expressions and causal vocabulary



Ervin-Tripp, S. M. 1991. Play in language development. In *Play and the social context of development in early care and education*, ed. B. Scales, A. Almy, A. Nicolopoulou, and S. M. Ervin-Tripp, 84-98. New York.

The big question:

Can we explain normativity without appealing to language?

Consequences

- 1 Normativity is crucial for language acquisition. Language is crucial for individual rationality.
- 2 Pro-sociality is pleiotropic with individual cognition.
- 3 Language and normativity are inseparable and entrenched.