October 23, 2017

Dear Dr. García Coll,

I am submitting a new manuscript entitled “Children's social referencing reflects sensitivity to uncertainty” coauthored by Benjamin deMayo, Michael C. Frank, and myself. The manuscript in its entirety is 30 pages long, and it includes 7 figures, 1 table, and supplementary materials including 6 additional tables.

In this work, we show that preschoolers’ social referencing is selective on the basis of epistemic uncertainty. Specifically, across two experiments, children visually referenced a speaker more frequently when the referent of a label was ambiguous because there were multiple unfamiliar potential referents. In Experiment 2, we additionally find that children’s social referencing is sensitive to graded referential evidence. Children referenced the speaker more frequently when there was only one cue to reference (a familiar distractor or helpful referential gaze), but when both cues were present they were more likely to respond without additional referencing.

These findings provide important evidence for children’s active contributions to social learning. They also provide a spontaneous active learning behavior — social referencing — that can be used in future research to index epistemic uncertainty across learning domains.

I note that: (1) the results reported in the manuscript have been in part presented to the Cognitive Science Society as [Hembacher, E.](http://langcog.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/bibtexbrowser.local.php?author=Hembacher%2C+E.&bib=citations.bib), [deMayo, B.](http://langcog.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/bibtexbrowser.local.php?author=deMayo%2C+B.&bib=citations.bib), [Frank, M. C.](http://langcog.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/bibtexbrowser.local.php?author=Frank%2C+M.+C.&bib=citations.bib) (2017). Children's social referencing reflects sensitivity to graded uncertainty.*Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society,* but have not been published in any peer reviewed publication, nor are they under consideration for publication elsewhere; (2) all of the authors have agreed to this submission; and (3) none of the authors have any financial interest or a conflict of interest regarding this work and this submission.

I also note that sample sizes and analytic plans were preregistered with the Open Science Framework, and all data and analytic code are available on Github.com. I have removed links to these repositories for the purpose of blind review, but they are available at the links below, and will be added to the manuscript if it is accepted.

OSF: https://osf.io/769hk/

Github: https://github.com/emilyfae/socref\_uncert

Sincerely,

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