

11: The Motor Theory of Goal Tracking

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1. The Motor Theory of Goal Tracking

According to the Motor Theory, infants' (and adults') pure goal-tracking sometimes depends on the double life of motor processes (see Sinigaglia & Butterfill 2015, for details).

More carefully the *Motor Theory of Goal Tracking* states that:

1. in action observation, possible outcomes of observed actions are represented motorically;
2. these representations trigger motor processes much as if the observer were performing actions directed to the outcomes;
3. such processes generates predictions;
4. a triggering representation is weakened if the predictions it generates fail.

The result is that, often enough, the only only outcomes to which the observed action is a means are represented strongly.

References

Sinigaglia, C. & Butterfill, S. A. (2015). On a puzzle about relations between thought, experience and the motoric. *Synthese*, 192(6), 1923–1936.