

Module:

Psychological Foundations of Mental Health

Week 4:

Beyond basic cognition and emotion



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Topic 3:

Delving deeper into social cognition

Part 1 of 4

Topic line



This week, we will be looking at the following topics:

- Topic 1: Attitudes
- Topic 2: Evaluation: Interpretation and appraisal
- **Topic 3: Delving deeper into social cognition**
- Topic in Action: Metacognition

Click **Next** to continue

What to expect in this session

So far: attitudes and appraisals

How our social environment shapes how we evaluate things

In this session: **Social cognitive processes**

Overview:

- The nature of social cognition
- Perspective taking
- Social inferences
- When social cognition goes wrong

The nature of social cognition

Social cognition (1)

Social psychology

Cognitive psychology

Social Cognition

The processes that people use to make sense of, and navigate through, their social world

The study social cognition can be traced back to three psychological assumptions:

People are
consistency seekers

People are *accuracy seekers* or
'naïve scientists'

People are *cognitive misers*

Festinger (1959)

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Social cognition (2)



Cognitive psychology



Social psychology

TAE CAT

We go beyond the information that is presented to us

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Social cognition (3)

Cognitive psychology

Social psychology

Social cognition = how people make sense of social stimuli

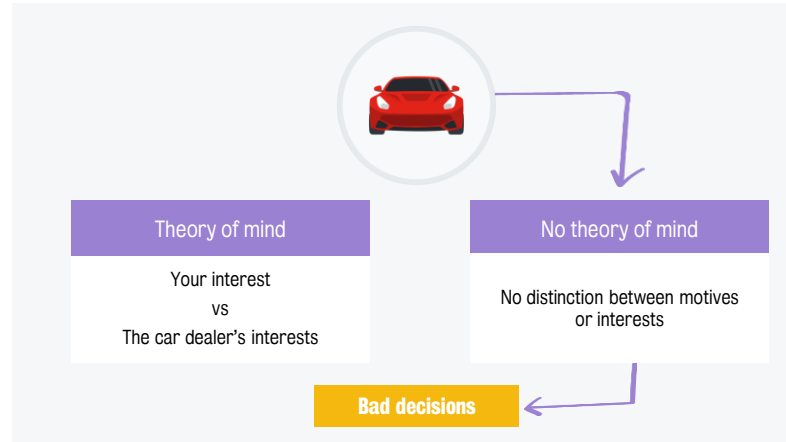
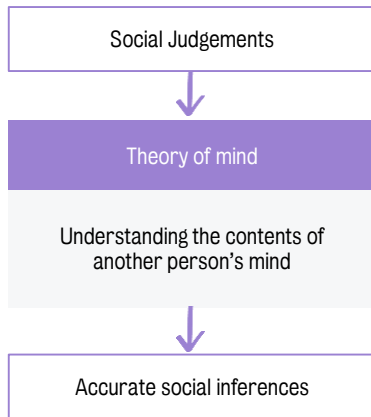


Social targets: we judge internal characteristics

Social cognition: Typical topics

- Availability of information
- Memory
- Assimilation/contrast effects
- Biases
- Attention
- Attribution
- Encoding
- Implicit and explicit attitudes
- Heuristics
- Mood, Affect, Emotion
- Metacognition
- Priming
- Embodiment
- Schemes, scripts, **stereotypes**
- Self-other effects
- Persuasion
- Top-down/bottom up processing
- Mimicry
- Social neuroscience
- Prejudice
- **Accessibility** of information
- Context dependency
- **Person perception**
- Dual process models
- **Theory of mind**
- ... Etc.

Theory of mind



When does a theory of mind develop?



Jean Piaget

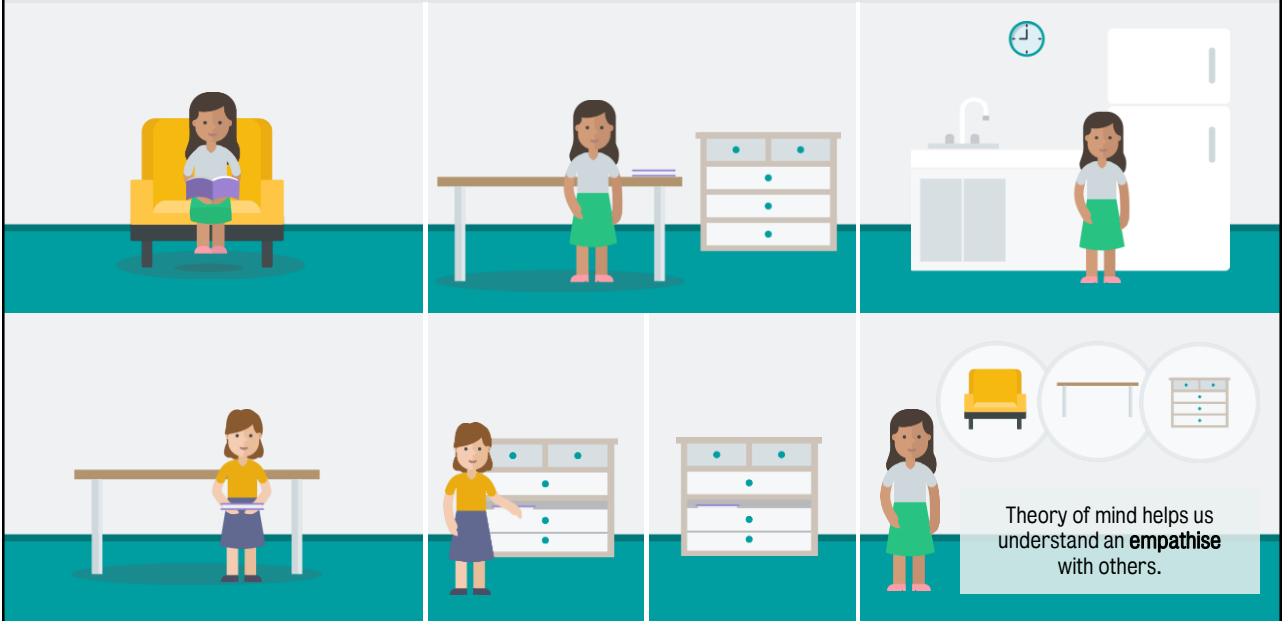
Around age 9

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Theory of mind: Sally-Anne test



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