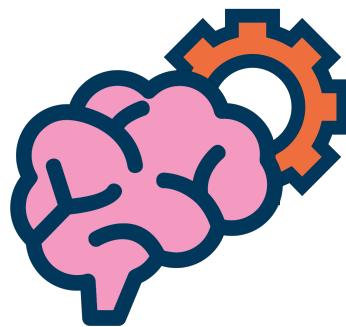


Culture

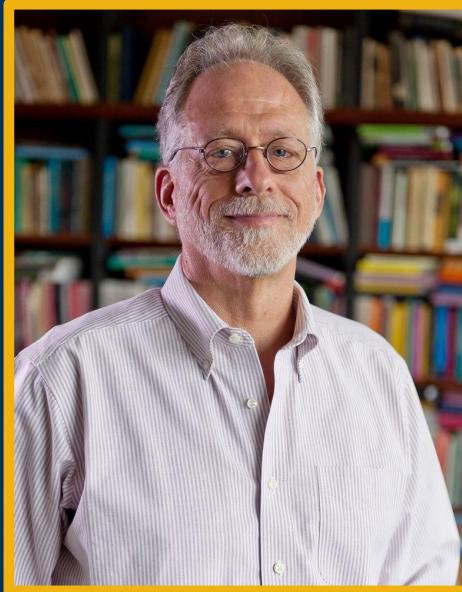
Why are humans able to make a more advanced society comparing to other high-level primates?



What cognitive changes occurred that prompted this success?



Michael Tomasello



Professor at Duke University

“His pioneering research on the origins of social cognition has led to revolutionary insights in both developmental psychology and primal cognition.”

Psychologist, linguist and anthropologist

Image: <https://scholars.duke.edu/person/michael.tomasello>

Reflection:
What are some observable
differences between humans and
other high-level primates?



Tool Industries



Symbolic
Communication



Social
Institutions

Observable Differences

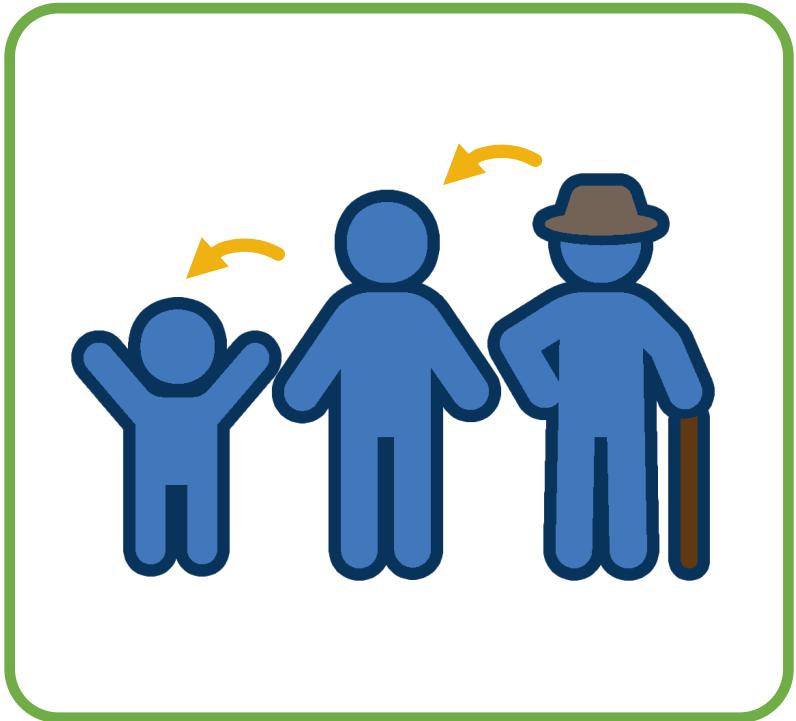
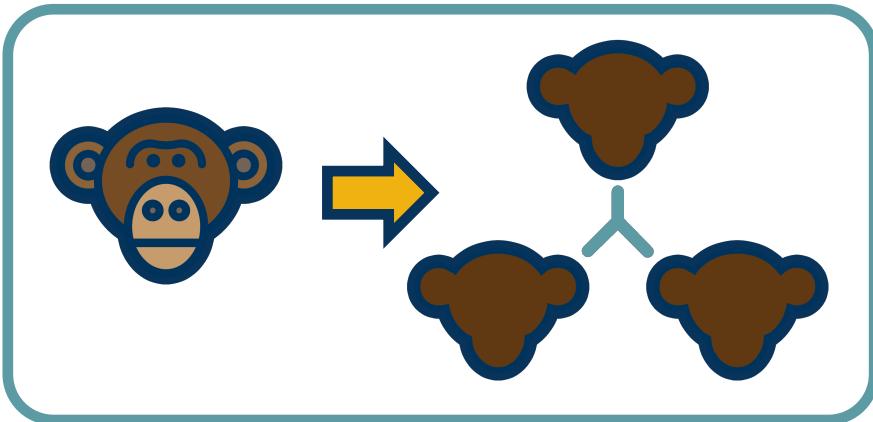
Example:



Joint
Attention

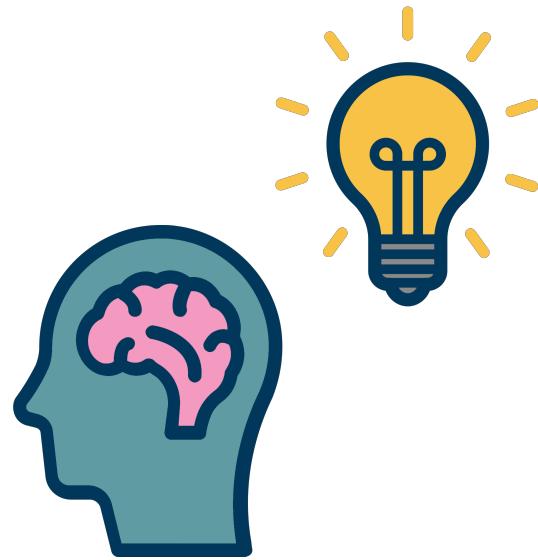


Recognizing Others as Intentional Agents

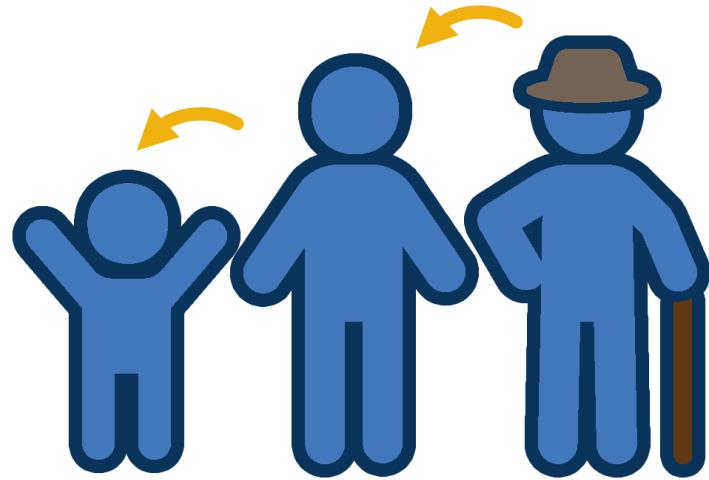


Ratchet Effect

Cumulative Cultural Evolution



Creative Invention



Social Transmission

Cumulative Cultural Evolution

Important Inventions:



Distributed Cognition:



Distributed
across Space

Distributed
across Time



Critical Separating Point

Cumulative Cultural Evolution



Social Learning:



Ontogenetic
Ritualization



Imitative
Learning

Reflection:

What are the three unique traits of human Tomasello believe to separate us from other high-level primates?



Transmission of Knowledge in Modern Day



Psychic Unity



Psychic Diversity



Emphasizes the role that **culture** has in shaping our cognition.

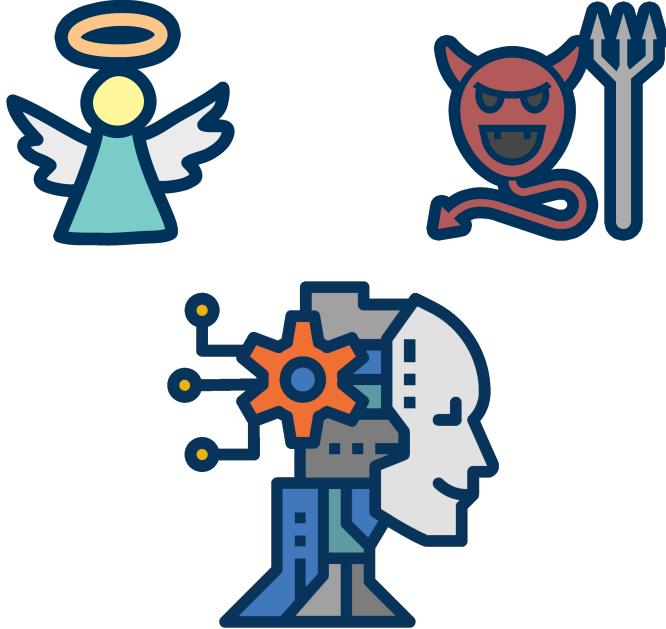
Psychic Unity and Psychic Diversity



Boundary of Psychic Unity

Reflection:

Do you agree more with psychic unity or psychic diversity? Why?



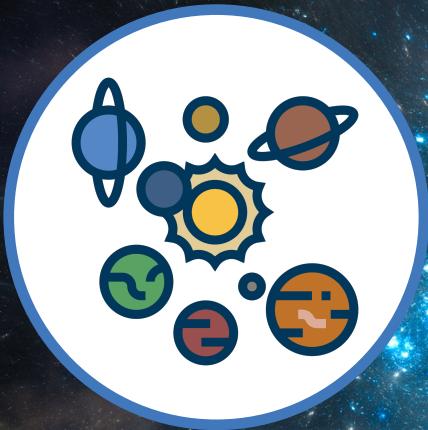
Will this hurt or help humans?

How do we explain the **apparent contradiction** in universality?



Biases and
Prejudices





Are we unique?