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An evolutionary adaptive neural architecture for social reasoning

This article goes into the evolutionary concepts behind social reasoning, and how and why our social reasoning skills developed. It also states that recent progress in cognitive neuroscience has emphasized the involvement of the prefrontal cortex in social cognition. However, not much is known about the functional organization of social cognition in the prefrontal cortex.

Studying social cognition is very much an interdisciplinary goal, taking inspiration from evolutionary psychology, social psychology, political science, behavioral economics, and decision neuroscience.

Evolutionary psychologists say that social exchange promotes the survival of individuals who cooperate for mutual benefit. Social exchange provides individuals with things they cannot procure themselves, allowing for the survival of more people. Social exchange interactions must have occurred for a sufficiently long period of time to have produced specialized cognitive neural adaptations.

Another question the article brings up is how coordinated and purposeful behavior exists. Research suggests that the prefrontal cortex is largely associated with this ability, allowing the user to group specific experiences together (including actions and environments) into common themes that can help us carry out goal-oriented behavior.

Questions:

1. Does this idea of people who contribute to society and those who cheat society play into the values and morals a society holds?
   1. Like cheaters are looked down upon because essentially they hinder the groups ability to survive?
2. What can knowing more about how the prefrontal cortex and social cognition do? How does it help society?
3. If humans didn’t establish this sort of barter system in our early evolutionary history, what other ways could we have created society in order to promote survival?