

GERGELY & CSIBRA (2003) TICS

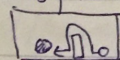
6 JAN 2021

Theory of Mind - ability to conceive of & attribute independent mental states (e.g. intentions, beliefs, desires) to others → kids pass more advanced ToM tests ~ 4;0
- YET -

Apparent early competence w/ ToM tasks demonstrated in a range of restricted contexts in the first year of life under restricted contexts... how can we explain this?

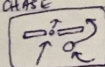
↳ imitation, joint attn, & violation of expectation studies indicate by 12 mo kids can

1) interpret others' actions as goal directed



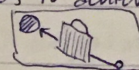
CHARACTERISTIC ACTION: CHASE

2) evaluate efficiency of alternative means - acts to achieving the goal



GOAL: CATCH

3) expect use of most efficient means act



CONSTRAINTS: OBSTRUCTION

⇒ Explanation 1: The mentalistic stance

True, ToM, attributions of desire & belief via modular ToM structures or via simulation

20e.g. w/ innate cues of gaze/motion, etc.

⇒ Explanation 2: The teleological stance

Reality-based action interpretation w/o mentalizing - sense making wrt the infant's own understanding of the world. Still leaves room for interpretation via innate triggering cues & simulation, but adds inferences about rational action ("the rationality principle" given the goal & situational constraints)



↳ apply rationality principle to contents not to mental states

(so still breaks down w/ pretense, false beliefs, etc.)

↳ dependence of later ToM on this skill is unclear though a sensible possibility



Mechanisms & role of experience still unclear to me: why ~1 year? Why not 6mo? 1mo?

Would be nice to see w/ more natural/complex stories (à la Woodward) & x-cult data