

Emiliano Loria

Teleological reasoning in infancy

Abstract of the talk

I will focus on the principle of efficiency, that is assumed innate in the infants' mind according to the "naive theory of rational choice", proposed by G. Csibra and G. Gergely. I will discuss the Woodward Paradigm and the further experimental findings conducted by Y. Lou and R. Baillargeon, and in particular by V. Southgate, who endorses the teleological stance described by Csibra and Gergely. The underlying topic is to establish if mindreading abilities are involved in the comprehension of oriented-goal actions shown very early by infants. I will show the hot debate in cognitive science about this issue and in conclusion the possible connections to the developmental psychopathology.