Moral & Social Cognition

Emmanuel Dupoux
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

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A ‘group’ core system?

→ from 5 months to 5 year of life there is social preference for people speaking the same language
→ extends to difference in accent interpretation
→ language is a powerful cue for group membership
→ infants are tracking group membership

Is there a moral ‘grammar’?

Moral judgments, like grammaticality judgments, are generated by a tacit, complex, and sometimes unaccessible body of knowledge.

Unlike language, moral judgements have a stronger interface with central cognitive processes, lack a complex, hierarchical structure; moral diversity may not be analysed in terms of settings of binary parameters.

Hence the moral ‘grammar’ analogy is at best vague, and at worst misleading.