
As far as I know. Social learning and the available information.

Chiara Ferrario*¹ and Laura Di Paolo*²

¹Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) – PO Box 600 Wellington 6140 NEW ZEALAND, New Zealand

²Università di Roma "La Sapienza" – Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" Piazzale Aldo Moro 5 00185 Roma, Italy

Abstract

Session: New perspectives on the evolution of human cognition. Chiara Elettra Ferrario, Ivan Dario Gonzalez Cabrera, Laura Desireé Di Paolo Chimpanzees are able to switch between emulation and imitation in solving goal-directed tasks, depending on the quantity of information available in the environment. Surprisingly, children are not. They stubbornly persist in copying demonstrator's actions, even when these are overtly ineffective or wasteful. Such apparent rigidity, contrasting with the standard of high flexibility observed in human behavior, requires an explanation. Taking our cue from a comparative study of Whiten and colleagues, we propose a different interpretation of their results, drawing from a broader framework on the evolution of human cognition.

*Speaker