
Conflict resolution in primates from an evolutionary approach

Alba Perez-Ruiz*¹

¹CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS FILOSOFICOS POLITICOS Y SOCIALES LOMBARDO TOLEDANO
(CEFPSVLT) – Lombardo Toledano 51. Chimalistac. México, D.F. C.P.03900, Mexico

Abstract

Conflict is an inevitable aspect of primate social life. Long-term relationships in primate societies implicate conflict and it occurs in different contexts, the most common are related to competition for resources. Conflict defined as any incompatibility over objectives, is not synonymous with aggression. Many systematic researches have been focus on conflict resolution in non human primates. Post conflict affiliative interactions provide different benefits such as: reduced risk of future aggression, stress reduction and restoration of relationships. The type of conflict and the mechanism of resolution are relevant for future interactions between opponents. From an evolutionary perspective, these mechanisms of conflict resolution contribute to individual reproductive success. The purpose of this work is to analyze the evolution of conflict resolution in non human primates in relation with:

- characteristics of individuals involved in the conflict
- contexts of the conflict and costs and benefits involved
- strategies of conflict resolution (according to benefits of the contest) as:
coercion, avoidance, tolerance, problem solving, third party interactions.

The different patterns of conflict resolution in primate species are a product of the influence of different factors. Moreover, cognitive abilities are related with the types of resolution strategies that different species of primates can use.

*Speaker