Why We Cooperate

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BOSTONREVIEW



Michael Tomasello

with Carol Dwock, Joan Silk, Brian Skyrms, and Elizabeth Spelke Copyrighted Material

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Drop something in front of a two-year-old, and she's likely to pick it up for you. This is not a learned behavior, psychologist Michael Tomasello argues. Through observations of young children in experiments he himself has designed, Tomasello shows that children are naturally—and uniquely—cooperative. Put through similar experiments, for example, apes demonstrate the ability to work together and share, but choose not to.

As children grow, their almost reflexive desire to help—without expectation of reward—becomes shaped by culture. They become more aware of being a member of a group. Groups convey mutual expectations, and thus may either encourage or discourage altruism and collaboration. Either way, cooperation emerges as a distinctly human combination of innate and learned behavior.

In Why We Cooperate, Tomasello's studies of young children and great apes help identify the underlying psychological processes that very likely supported humans' earliest forms of complex collaboration and, ultimately, our unique forms of cultural organization, from the evolution of tolerance and trust to the creation of such group-level structures as cultural norms and institutions.

Scholars Carol Dweck, Joan Silk, Brian Skyrms, and Elizabeth Spelke respond to Tomasello's findings and explore the implications.

作者介绍:

Michael Tomasello is Codirector of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig. He is the author of The Cultural Origins of Human Cognition and Constructing a Language: A Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition.

目录:

Why We Cooperate 下载链接1

标签

心理学

人类学

合作

进化理论

开卷八分钟
西方心理学
西方
发展心理学
评论
非常有趣的研究。我们某种相互合作的动机深刻地根植于人性之中。这种动机使得我们形成了共享合作事业,构成了"我们"。这个研究对我们提供某种更丰富的行动者属性的哲学分析,提供了基础性的支持。
One year infant are naturally helpful, informative and generous and that is not a product of reward, training or enculturation. The best way to motivate people to collaborate and to think like a group is to identify an enemy and charge that they threaten us.
The thing is to find a new way to define the group

拿猩猩作为十几个月宝宝的control group来证明人类有altruistic gene,脑洞着实很大,虽然还是没法控制十几个月的宝宝其实已经socialized to some extent

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书评

一本不到150页的小册子。从书名,一开始我以为是要从社会学角度讲合作的重要性,从而去论证一个主题,就是我们为什么要合作。但是一翻开看了目录后,发现应该是倾向于研究类的书。全书是通过实验研究和分析,从生物本能上展开的研究(主要是儿童和猩猩的研究及对比),从生物本...

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