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## THE EVOLUTIONARY ROOTS OF HUMAN SOCIAL NORMS: AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

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The aim of this study was to explore the presence of social norms in chimpanzees. All human social life is guided by social norms, whose violation may provoke negative reactions, not only in victims, but most importantly, also in unaffected bystanders. Although chimpanzees often protest when their expectations are violated, such protests are primarily based on “egoistic norms” (i.e. selfish preferences). To establish social norms in chimpanzees, we must first investigate, whether they, like humans, also perceive norm violations as unaffected bystanders. We assume that a possible norm violation in chimpanzees is the killing of infants by adults. Therefore, we conducted video experiments with captive chimpanzees housed in Gossau (N=10) and Basel (N=7), Switzerland. In the baseline phase, we showed the whole group video clips of unfamiliar conspecifics performing socially neutral behaviours. In the experimental phase, the chimpanzees watched unfamiliar conspecifics performing infanticide (treatment), hunts or excitement in other contexts (controls). Preliminary analyses show that the chimpanzees looked significantly longer to infanticide than to the other stimuli. Furthermore, video clips were controlled for alternative stimuli that could have been responsible for their increased looking duration. Thus, our experiments show that chimpanzees differentially evaluated infanticide from other social events even as completely unaffected bystanders. This differentiated response constitutes a basic foundation for the presence of social norms in chimpanzees.

Keywords: chimpanzees, social behaviour, social norms, evolution of morality