

JUVENILIZED BONOBOS AND THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

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When testing hypotheses regarding derived features of human cognitive evolution, chimpanzees have been used as the main point of comparison. However, bonobos are more similar to humans in many domains of behavior and psychology and thus will also be crucial in allowing for the most powerful tests of hypothesis regarding human cognitive evolution. I will present data from comparisons between the two *Panins* that suggests that bonobo psychology related to feeding competition is juvenilized relative to that of chimpanzees. Specifically, bonobos maintain juvenile levels of feeding tolerance and social inhibitory control into adulthood. Shifts in human cognitive development have often been proposed to underlie the evolution of our ultra-social and cultural form of cognition. We conclude that in uncovering the mechanisms that lead to juvenilized bonobo psychology, we will gain invaluable information regarding the evolution of cognitive development in our own species. With the projected completion of the bonobo genome in 2010, new opportunities to test hypotheses regarding the evolution of development among apes should arise.

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