

PERCEPTION OF OTHERS' ACTIONS: EFFECT OF ONE'S OWN ACTIONS IN CAPUCHIN MONKEYS

H. Kuroshima¹, A. Paukner², I. Kaiser³, S.J. Suomi², D.M. Fragaszy⁴, K. Fujita¹

¹*Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan*, ²*National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Poolesville, USA*, ³*Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany*, ⁴*University of Georgia, Athens, USA*

Presenter's Email: h.kuroshima@gmail.com

We investigated the link between perception of other's action and own experience in adult capuchin monkeys and infant rhesus monkeys. In Experiment 1, adult capuchin monkeys observed an actor who tried to open a food container by a familiar or an unfamiliar action. When a familiar action was done, the monkeys paid more attention to the actor than when an unfamiliar action was done. In Experiment 2, the actor showed the monkeys two unfamiliar actions toward a new food container. Looking duration of the monkeys toward the actor was not different between actions. The monkeys were then trained to open the new container by one of the unfamiliar actions. After the training, in Experiment 3, we repeated the same procedure as in Experiment 2. The monkeys paid more attention to the actor when the trained action was done. We also investigated the difference of active and observational experiences by infant rhesus monkeys. In the training phase, half of the monkeys were trained to open the container and another half just observed the actor opened it. Only the active experience group stayed longer at the front area of the test cage when the actor was doing the trained action. These results showed that perception of other's actions in monkeys, as in humans, was affected by own experience of the action. These results also suggest that monkeys may interpret the meaning of other's action.

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