

The neurocognitive development of social decision-making

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Propositions

- I. With increasing age adolescent social behavior does not become more prosocial but rather more context dependent. (this thesis)
- II. The developmental changes in perspective-taking are the result of an early decrease in self-referential processes, and a gradual increase in other-related processes. (this thesis)
- **III.** Social development during adolescence is not a process of learning and internalizing social norms, but rather a process of becoming more skilled in reasoning and applying these norms. (this thesis)
- **IV.** The stability of reciprocal relationships increases with age due to an increased ability to regulate negative affect. (this thesis)
- **V.** Depending on how we look at the developing brain, it is either more sensitive to positive feedback or more sensitive to negative feedback. (this thesis)
- VI. An important next step in the advancement of our understanding of the relation between functional brain development and social development is studying the connectivity within and between brain networks.
- VII. When interpreting developmental differences in brain activation it is important to remember that "There is no teleology involved in development; mature, normative cognition is an outcome of development, not a pre-specified target" (Thomas & Karmiloff-Smith, 2003).
- VIII. It is important for scientists to communicate their findings to the public. A public presentation should therefore be an obligatory part of the curriculum and examination of graduate students.
- **IX.** Science should be truly open, thus the university should not only promote open access publications, but open access to all phases of research. This would include; open data, open (source) software and a mindset for sharing.
- **X.** The danger of the current emphasis on the valorisation of science is that there is too much focus on *instrumental values*, and too little on truth finding (*epistemic values*) and value determination (*ethical* or *normative values*).