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Computations in the social brain

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Propositions

My research

1. All human interactions can be parsimoniously modeled with economic games.
2. Perspective-taking/theory of mind are technologies that can just as easily be used for good as for evil.
3. How you reason about others influences how you behave and thus how they reason about you.
4. Moral sentiments act as priors that bias learning.
5. Sophisticated strategic reasoning is more beneficial during attack than during defense, which suggests the evolution of intelligence is promoted more by attack than defense.

The field

1. Neuroimaging does not necessarily add any explanatory value to the understanding of brain function.
2. Researchers are too quick to advance increased activation within a given brain region as if this is an explanation of a phenomenon in and of itself.
3. It's too easy to forget that all models are false but some are useful.
4. As long as the discovery of unlikely phenomena are incentivized science will continue to be plagued with ethical scandals.

My choice

1. More often than not, it is not worth your time to debate or even speak with a humorless individual.
2. You are unlikely to engage in a debate with someone who is willing to change their mind.
3. Learning to code will help you learn to think.
4. One of the worst consequences of the folk belief in the existence of "free will" is that it facilitates circular conversations regarding the existence of "free will".