

Developping Self-Consciousness and Values

Philippe Rochat

Psychology Dpt, University of Emory, USA

As a species, we develop a special kind of self awareness, namely the evaluative sense of who we are in relation to others. In this presentation, I discuss the development of self-consciousness in children, viewing it as the by-product of the construction of shared values with others. I present recent data on the emergence of negotiation and sharing propensities in young children growing up in various, highly contrasted cultural environments. My goal is to raise the question of what it would take to build a developing robot, a robot that would simulate the child in its psychological growth, a machine that would be conscious of itself, ready to reciprocate and to give with no short-term reward or self-gratification.