



Hand preference, communicative gestures and praxis in human infants

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Even though in human adults there are obvious relationships between hand preference, language lateralization and lateralization for representing manual praxis, it is still hotly debated how these traits co-evolved to become what they are in modern humans. One way to learn about possible causal relationship between these traits consists in observing how they co-develop in infants. In this talk I will compare the early emergence of hand preference for unimanual object grasping, for bimanual object manipulation, for communicative gestures, and for tool use. In some of our studies we compared infants with non-human primates. Results are in favor of some independence between hand preference for objects' manipulation and for communicative gestures, and between hand preference and praxis acquisition in infants with typical development. In addition, I will include some examples showing that human infants and non-human primates' results for handedness and for lateralization of communicative gestures are strikingly similar.