

Self-awareness, self-control, and theory of mind

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In social psychology, achieving a complete and accurate understanding of others is often considered a challenge because the self gets in the way. In development, however, awareness and control over the self is increasingly seen as an integral part of the development of theory of mind: children come to understand others vis-à-vis the self. In this talk I will discuss the skills and mechanisms that are likely to be involved in this process. I will then present a brief summary of research in my lab on self-control in preschool children and its relation to social understanding and to symbolic thought and action.

