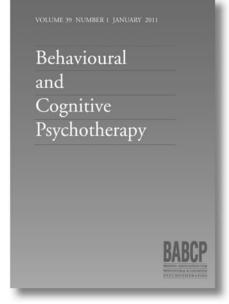
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Editor: Paul M Salkovskis, Institute of Psychiatry, London, UK



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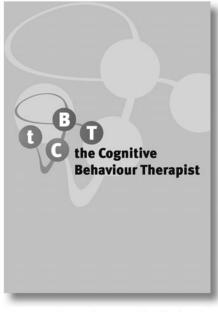
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Editor: Michael Townend, University of Derby, UK



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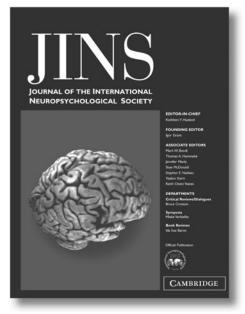
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Editor: Kathleen Y. Haaland, NM VA Healthcare System, Albuquergue, USA



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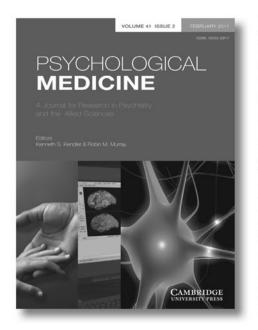


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The service of Open Peer Commentary will be primarily devoted to original unpublished manuscripts written specifically for BBS treatment. However, a recently published book whose contents meet the standards outlined above spontaneously and multiply nominated by the BBS Associateship may also be eligible for Commentary. In such a BBS Multiple Book Review, a comprehensive, article-length précis by the author is published together with the commentaries and the author's response. In special cases, Commentary will also be extended to a position paper or an already published article that deals with particularly influential or controversial research or that has itself proven to be especially important or controversial. In normal cases however, BBS submissions may not be already published (either in part or whole) or be under consideration for publication elsewhere and submission of an article is considered expressly to imply this. Multiple book reviews and previously published articles appear by invitation only. Self-nominations cannot be considered, neither can non-spontaneous (i.e. author elicited) nominations. However, the BBS Associateship and professional readership of BBS are encouraged to nominate current topics, books and authors for Commentary; e-mail bbsjournal@cambridge.org

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#### The evolution and psychology of self-deception

William von Hippel and Robert Trivers

#### To appear in Volume 34, Number 2 (2011)

#### Why do humans reason? Arguments for an argumentative theory

#### Hugo Mercier, University of Pennsylvania, and Dan Sperber, Jean Nicod Institute and Central European University

Reasoning is generally seen as a means to improve knowledge and make better decisions. However, much evidence shows that reasoning often leads to epistemic distortions and poor decisions. This suggests that the function of reasoning should be rethought. Our hypothesis is that the function of reasoning is argumentative. It is to devise and evaluate arguments intended to persuade. Reasoning so conceived is adaptive given humans' exceptional dependence on communication and vulnerability to misinformation. A wide range of evidence in the psychology of reasoning and decision making can be reinterpreted and better explained in the light of this hypothesis.

With commentary from RF Baumeister, EJ Masicampo & CN DeWall; T Connolly & J Reb; W De Neys; J. Dessalles; JSIBT Evans; J Fox; K Frankish; P Godfrey-Smith & K Yegnashankaran; M Harrell; JA Johnson; DM Khlentzos & B Stevenson; D Kuhn; D Narvaez; M Oaksford; JE Opfer & V Sloutsky; D Pietraszewski; FH Poletiek; RJ Sternberg; EJN Stupple & LJ Ball; JS Uleman, LM Kressel & SY Rim; EU Weber & EJ Johnson; J Wiles; CR Wolfe; KC-C Wu

#### To appear in Volume 34, Number 3 (2011)

#### Précis of The Origin of Concepts

#### Susan Carey, Harvard University

A theory of conceptual development must specify the innate representational primitives, must characterize the ways in which the initial state differs from the adult state, and must characterize the processes through which one is transformed into the other. The Origin of Concepts (henceforth TOOC) defends three theses. With respect to the initial state, the innate stock of primitives is not limited to sensory, perceptual, or sensory-motor representations; rather, there are also innate conceptual representations. With respect to developmental change, conceptual development consists of episodes of qualitative change, resulting in systems of representation that are more powerful than, and sometimes incommensurable with, those from which they are built. With respect to a learning mechanism that achieves conceptual discontinuity, I offer Quinian bootstrapping. TOOC concludes with a discussion of how an understanding of conceptual development constrains a theory of concepts.

With commentary from JWP Allen & MH Bickhard; T Burge; SA Butterfill; C Gauker; R Gelman; D Gentner & N Simms; A Gopnik; M Haman & M Hernik; C Heintz; CS Hill; F Keil; S Kiss; J Korman; D Landy, C Allen, & ML Anderson; E Machery; E Mandelbaum; JM Mandler; E Margolis & S Laurence; AB Markman; IPL McLaren, AJ Wills & S Graham; KA Overmann, T Wynn, & FL Coolidge; D Poulin-Dubois; Ll Rips & SJ Hespos; CA Ristau; M Schlesinger & D Amso; N Shea; ES Spelke; DA Weiskopf; F Xu

#### Among the articles to appear in forthcoming issues of BBS:

H. Mercier & D. Sperber, "Why do humans reason? Arguments for an argumentative theory" S. Carey, "Précis of *The Origin of Concepts"* 

- M. Jones & B. C. Love, "Bayesian fundamentalism or enlightenment? On the explanatory status and theoretical contributions of Bayesian models of cognition"
- S. Elgayam & J. St. B. T. Evans, "Subtracting 'ought' from 'is': Descriptivism versus normativism in the study of the human thinking"

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