



Book review

Betty Repacholi and Virginia Slaughter: Individual differences in Theory of Mind: Implications for Typical and Atypical Development. New York and Hove: Psychology Press, 2003. Price £39.95 (Hbk). 366 pp, ISBN: 1-84169-093-7

Another book on theory of mind? I approached this book with low expectations, imagining that there might not be enough new data or enough progress in research to justify a new edited collection. I was more than pleasantly surprised to discover how this field has indeed progressed in the last 5 years. This is a wonderful way for the specialist reader (in child development, clinical psychology, or cognitive science) to get into this important area.

The book explores not just how a theory of mind (ToM) develops in the typical child, but how a ToM differs in children who are bullies or have been bullied; in those who are securely or insecurely attached; in those who have been abused or in adults who abuse, to give just some examples. The book also goes beyond ToM to consider this in the context of empathy, correctly recognizing that ToM is not the same as empathy. Thus, there are some terrific chapters on the dissociation between ToM and empathy in people who are high on measures of "Mach" (machievellianism), and in people with the personality disorder of psychopathy. The new work on ToM in clinical groups such as Asperger Syndrome and schizophrenia is also well covered.

I strongly recommend the book as a reference point into the academic literature on ToM, which nicely complements other books which have looked at ToM in the brain.

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Available online 10 May 2004