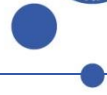




Faculty of Humanities



How basic is empathy?

Direct and indirect ways of knowing others

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Einfühlung and Empathy

- Vischer, Lipps and Titchener
- Lipps: empathy as inner imitation
- Gallese: empathy as inner imitation
- Hatfield: empathy as motor mimicry
- Goldie: Empathy as a simulative process of imagining what it must be like for the other to be in such a situation



Multidimensional construct

- Basic empathy vs complex empathy
- Perceptually mediated empathy vs cognitive empathy
- Motor empathy, cognitive empathy and emotional empathy
- Various empathy deficits
- Empathy, sympathy and emotional contagion



How important is empathy?

- Goldman: Mindreading is an extended form of empathy
- Gallese: empathy "is relevant when accounting for all aspects of behavior enabling us to establish a meaningful link between others and ourselves"
- Hoffman: empathy is "the glue that makes social life possible."
- Jacob, Vignemont, Singer: Empathy is less direct and more mediated than standard mindreading



Philosophy and Science

- Innsbruck 1910: 4. congress of experimental psychology
- “When I arrived, I expected to hear something about experiments in the field of empathy. But what have I heard except plenty of old theories? No experimental results. But this is no philosophical association! I believe the time is ripe for those who want to present those kinds of theories, to show us whether or not they can be confirmed by experiments.” Martin



Recent developments in the discussion of social cognition

- Enactive, embodied, phenomenological approaches to social cognition
- Is the psychological life of others inherently unobservable?
- Direct social perception and empathic understanding
- Do empathy provide a direct and non-inferential access understanding of others?
- Is being contextual and being direct incompatible determinations?



Further issues to be addressed

- How is empathy related to and different from emotional contagion, motor mimicry, emotional sharing, imagining oneself “in someone else’s shoes” and sympathy?
- What is the relation between undergoing and understanding an experience and its bodily expression?
- Is it a necessary condition for empathy that an observer *feels* the same emotion that she detects in another person?
- Is empathy a single unified phenomenon?



Thanks for your attention!

