

## Early competence with inferential communication

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2. **Brief project overview:** Human infants from as early as 14 months of age display competence with a range of skills that are required for Gricean reasoning, such as attributing and monitoring intentions, tracking their interlocutor's epistemic state (Behne, Carpenter, Call, & Tomasello, 2005; Moll & Tomasello, 2007), and they also produce sophisticated communicative gestures (Csibra & Gergely, 2009; Tomasello, Carpenter, & Liszkowski, 2007). However, much research suggests that children as old as 4 or even 5 years fail to derive some fundamental Gricean conversational implicatures (Guasti, Chierchia, Crain, Foppolo, Gualmini & Meroni, 2005; Noveck, 2001; Pouscoulous, Noveck, Politzer & Bastide, 2007; i.a.) in spite of having mastered such an impressive range of communicative skills. The proposed adversarial collaboration aims to explore this paradox by investigating children's derivation of inferences which, under a Gricean analysis, can be described as conversational implicatures based on the maxim of quantity. Specifically, on the one hand, we aim to design a set of experimental paradigms to study two of the key factors that have been put forth by Gricean-inspired analyses: working memory resources and metalinguistic awareness; and on the other hand, to design paradigms which make it possible to test the cooperative reasoning account (Tomasello, 2008), according to which developmental delays are to be expected when children do not see a real-life motivation to engage fully in the experimental task.

### REFERENCES (in brief format):

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