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# Spontaneous and Intentional Social Inferences: A Common Process

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## Abstract

Recent neuroscientific evidence seems to contradict extant dual-process models which assume that spontaneous and intentional social inferences (e.g., on other's goals and traits) are guided by different processes. Across spontaneous and intentional inferences, ERP studies demonstrated that their onset occurs at about the same time, and fMRI studies have consistently found an overlap in core brain areas of mentalizing, including the temporo-parietal junction, medial prefrontal cortex, and precuneus. These results are indicative of a common process that produces a rapid initial spontaneous inference. Differences in activated brain areas further suggest that this spontaneous process may be followed by a more intentional, flexible and cognitively demanding process during which observers qualify their initial inference.

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