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The case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde: A kinematic study on social intention

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to investigate the effects of social intentions on action. Participants ($N = 13$) were requested to reach towards, grasp an object, and either pass it to another person (social condition) or put it on a concave base (single-agent condition). Movements' kinematics was recorded using a three-dimensional motion analysis system. The results indicate that kinematics is sensitive to social intention. Movements performed for the "social" condition were characterized by a kinematic pattern which differed from those obtained for the "single-agent" condition. Results are discussed in terms of a motor simulation hypothesis, which assumes that the same mechanisms underlying motor intention are sensitive to social intentions.



Keywords

Social cognition; Social intentions; Social action; Kinematics; Reach-to-grasp

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