

Accepted Manuscript

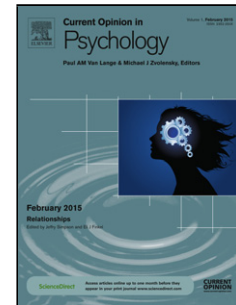
Title: The Evolutionary Roots of Prosociality: The case of Instrumental helping

Author: Alicia P. Melis

PII: S2352-250X(17)30140-9
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.copsyc.2017.08.019>
Reference: COPSYC 545

To appear in:

Received date: 17-5-2017
Revised date: 29-7-2017
Accepted date: 7-8-2017



Please cite this article as: A.P. Melis, The Evolutionary Roots of Prosociality: The case of Instrumental helping, *COPSYC* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2017.08.019>

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The Evolutionary Roots of Prosociality: The case of Instrumental helping

Alicia P. Melis

Warwick Business School (Behavioural Science)
The University of Warwick
Coventry, CV4 7 AL, UK
alicia.melis@wbs.ac.uk

Abstract

Comparative studies with closely related primate species are crucial to understand the origins of human prosociality. One type of prosocial behaviour that probably relies on evolutionary ancient skills and motivations is instrumental helping. Recent experimental studies have shown that bonobos and chimpanzees will help others achieve their action goals.

Chimpanzees have shown to help others picking up and giving objects to a recipient, opening locked doors for conspecifics struggling to open them, and releasing stuck rewards that recipients were trying to reach. Recent studies have now replicated some of these results with bonobos. However, whereas chimpanzee's helping emerges mainly in response to recipients' signals of need, bonobos also help proactively. This difference could rely on bonobos' enhanced socio-cognitive skills.

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