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**Fairness, fast and slow: A review of dual process models of fairness**

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**Highlights**

- An extended social heuristics hypothesis can account for the cognition of fairness
- Positive and negative reciprocity are primarily intuitive
- Greater role for reflection in proactive fairness and honesty, depending on context
- Future research needs to embrace combination of methods and diverse samples

**Abstract**

Fairness, the notion that people deserve or have rights to certain resources or kinds of treatment, is a fundamental dimension of moral cognition. Drawing on recent evidence from economics, psychology, and neuroscience, we ask whether self-interest is always intuitive, requiring self-control to override with reasoning-based fairness concerns, or whether fairness itself can be intuitive. While we find strong support for rejecting the notion that self-interest is always intuitive, the literature has reached conflicting conclusions about the neurocognitive systems underpinning fairness. We propose that this disagreement can largely be resolved in light of an extended Social Heuristics Hypothesis. Divergent findings may be attributed to the interpretation of behavioral effects of ego depletion or neurostimulation, reverse inference from brain activity to the underlying psychological process, and insensitivity to social context and inter-individual differences. To better dissect the neurobiological basis of fairness, we outline how future research should embrace cross-disciplinary methods that combine psychological manipulations with neuroimaging, and that can probe inter-individual, and cultural heterogeneities.

**Keywords**

Fairness; Dual Process Theory; Reasoning; Intuition; Neuroimaging; Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation; Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation

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