

2013 Email Exchanges with Dr. Mercier

Original Email reaching out to Dr. Mercier

On Mon, Sep 9, 2013 at 8:14 PM, Henriques, Gregg - henriqgx <henriqgx@jmu.edu> wrote:

Hi Hugo,

A while back I read your B&BS article on a human theory of reasoning, and I have been meaning to write since then because I had a similar idea that might be of interest to you. It is called the "Justification Hypothesis" and posits that human reasoning evolved because language created the adaptive problem of "reason giving" (aka justifying, which of course overlaps much with arguing). I employ an evolutionary argument and use the lens to understand modern research similar to the work you have done.

Attached are two articles. I particularly recommend scanning the chapter on the JH to get a feel for where our ideas might intersect. I would be happy to discuss this further if you are interested.

Best,

Gregg

Professor

---

From: Hugo Mercier

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 11:26 PM

To: Henriques, Gregg - henriqgx

Subject: Re: Argumentative Theory and Justification Hypothesis

Hi Gregg,

Thanks a lot for sending this, I'll give the papers a look as soon as possible and get back to you!

Cheers,

Hugo

---

On Tue, Sep 10, 2013 at 2:43 PM, Henriques, Gregg - henriqgx <henriqgx@jmu.edu> wrote:

Thanks, Hugo. Look forward to it.

Best,

Gregg

Professor

---

From: Hugo Mercier

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 10:32 PM

To: Henriques, Gregg

Subject: Re: Argumentative Theory and Justification Hypothesis

That was an interesting read!

I think an important difference is that your theory is part of a much broader one about the mind and consciousness, whereas we've tried to be more pointed and only talk about one cognitive mechanism (albeit an important one). We're also stressing more, I guess, the 'reception' side of the story: how reasoning is used not only to produce arguments, but also to evaluate them.

Thanks for sending the papers

take care

hugo

---

Wed 9/11/2013 2:52 PM

Hi Hugo,

Thanks for taking the time to check out what I sent. I agree with your assessment of the differences. If there are any major developments in your work please let me know.

Best,

Gregg

Gregg Henriques, Ph.D.

Professor