

Theories about social normativity play an essential role in explaining socialization, social identity and rational choice in human societies. A very important but at the same time highly controversial issue in this debate are questions like 'How social norms come into being?', 'Which species entertain social norms?', and 'What does it mean to have an understanding of social norms'. In this talk we will suggest a conceptual framework characterizing the understanding of social norms as a gradual developing ability and examine potential connections to recent research on the emergence of social norms in developmental psychology. Hypothetically, we will suggest a potential stage model of required abilities and classify them as necessary and / or sufficient for the understanding of social norms.