# Article information:

Are Infants Altercentric? The Other and the Self in Early Social Cognition  
<https://oce-ovid-com.libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/article/00006832-202007000-00002/HTML>

# Article summary:

1. Infants appear capable of taking others' perspectives from early in life, even when it conflicts with their own perspective.

2. This ability is challenging for older children and adults and relies on Executive Functions (EFs), particularly inhibition, which are limited in early childhood.

3. The author proposes that infants can take others' perspectives because they have an altercentric bias and lack a competing self-perspective, which emerges later in development and creates a conflict requiring resolution by EFs.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Are Infants Altercentric? The Other and the Self in Early Social Cognition" proposes a new theory to explain how infants are able to take others' perspectives despite lacking mature Executive Functions. The author argues that infants have an altercentric bias, which biases their attention towards others' attention and lacks a competing self-perspective. This theory challenges traditional views on perspective-taking development, which suggest that it is a slow progression culminating in the ability to predict false beliefs at around 4 years of age.

The article provides a detailed analysis of the literature on perspective-taking and Executive Functions, highlighting the role of inhibitory control and response selection in managing conflicting representations. It also discusses existing views on how infants might succeed on nonverbal perspective-taking tasks without needing to deal with conflicting perspectives.

However, the article has some potential biases and missing points of consideration. For example, it does not fully address the debate over whether infants can represent others' false beliefs or whether they only track visual perspectives. Additionally, while the author acknowledges that there is still considerable debate over how best to interpret infants' perspective-taking abilities, they present their theory as if it is a definitive explanation.

Furthermore, the article does not explore counterarguments or alternative explanations for why infants might be able to take others' perspectives. For example, some researchers have suggested that infants may rely on social cues such as gaze direction rather than representing mental states.

Overall, while the article presents an interesting new theory for understanding infant perspective-taking abilities, it could benefit from more balanced reporting and consideration of alternative explanations.

# Topics for further research:

* Infants' ability to represent false beliefs
* Social cues and perspective-taking in infants
* Development of inhibitory control in infancy
* Alternative explanations for infant perspective-taking
* The role of language in perspective-taking development
* Cross-cultural differences in perspective-taking abilities in infancy

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/d078d75cbc5f44f33f81a96b65571ceb>