

## Short profile Michael Tomasello Developmental Psychologist

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Michael Tomasello studied psychology at Duke University and the University of Georgia, USA. During the 1980s and 1990s, he was a professor of psychology at Emory University and worked at the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta before moving to Germany and taking up a position at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

Professor Tomasello's major research interests are processes of social cognition, social learning and communication from developmental, comparative, and cultural perspectives. His current theoretical focus is on processes of shared intentionality. His empirical research concentrates on children between one and four years of age and on great apes.

Professor Tomasello's scientific accomplishments include, most significantly, the identification of uniquely human forms of cooperation, communication, and cultural learning (in comparison with our closest great ape relatives), and the documentation of the crucial roles of cooperation, joint attention, discourse, and other inter-subjective processes in children's early cultural learning.

### **Brief CV**

Born:  
18.01.1950 in Bartow, Florida, USA

Professional activities:  
Developmental psychologist and director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany  
Founding associate editor of the journal *Developmental Science*