

*C<sup>3</sup>S*

*Concordia Centre for Cognitive Science*

presents a lecture by

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# The developmental origins of selective social learning

Date: Jan. 24, 2018 at 17:00  
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### ABSTRACT

Social learning, defined as learning that is influenced by observation of or interaction with another individual, is widespread in animals. It reaches a zenith in the unique cumulative culture of humans. Although social learning is a potentially cheap way of acquiring information, it comes with pitfalls because the acquired information might be outdated, misleading, or inappropriate. In a series of experiments, I will provide evidence for model-based learning biases in young children and infants, including a precocious sensitivity to the trustworthiness of speakers and emoters. I will also address the debate about the mechanisms that could account for early selective trust and whether infants selective trust provides evidence of specialization for cultural learning.