

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

One of the important areas of research on pro-social behavior is the research on food sharing. An overwhelming majority of studies on this topic was conducted in anthropology paradigm. The research focused on customs and ecological factors connected to food sharing in different communities and drew conclusions mostly about origins and functions of this phenomenon in different ethnic groups and on rituals connected to sharing mostly based on observation in foragers. Another source of evidence on food sharing evolution is the knowledge about food sharing in animals that shows that this phenomenon is present also in other species like chimpanzees, swallows or vampire bats. It was also proven that after food sharing, with kin and non-kin alike, urinary oxytocin levels in wild chimpanzees are significantly higher after food sharing than after grooming in both receiver and the donor.

Food sharing is an important aspect of human cooperation. Even though numerous anthropological studies on food sharing were conducted there is still very few psychological or neuroimaging evidence on this topic. Therefore in the following studies we plan to investigate on psychological and neural aspects of food sharing. We hypothesize that since not the sharing itself but food sharing in particular, was crucial for human cultural development, humans are more likely to share food than other goods and that humans might be predisposed to share food more generously and that decisions connected to food sharing are more intuitive than other sharing choices. We will also look for neural correlates of the differences between decisions connected to food sharing or non-food sharing.