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PERCEPTION OF TRIADIC GAZE IN CHIMPANZEES (*PAN TROGLODYTES*) TESTED BY THE VISUAL SEARCH TASK

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Both chimpanzees and humans are known to detect the direct-gaze face more quickly than the averted-gaze face. In contrast with perception of dyadic gaze, it is still unclear how chimpanzees perceive and understand eye-gaze interactions between third parties, which we define as "triadic gaze". In this presentation, we report the results of visual-search experiments with chimpanzees for the perception of triadic gaze. Chimpanzees were required to detect and touch the predefined target photograph presented on the LCD monitor. In the first experiment, chimpanzees detected the target object held but not attended by the human model more quickly than that held and attended by the model. This quick detection of "inattention" or "ignorance" was replicated under the task in which the human model (with an object) was the target. Furthermore, chimpanzee's search performances were hampered by the distractors in which the two persons looked away from each other more severely than those containing two persons looking at each other. These results suggest that deviations from joint-attention contexts more readily capture the chimpanzee's attention than do joint-attention contexts.

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