Title
Animal Abduction and the Emergence of Deception

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1q62g762

Journal

ISSN
1069-7977

Authors
Magnani, Lorenzo
Bertolotti, Tommaso

Publication Date
2014

Peer reviewed
Animal Abduction and the Emergence of Deception

Lorenzo Magnani
University of Pavia, Italy

Tommaso Bertolotti
University of Pavia

Abstract: This paper deals with the emergence of aggressive deceptive behaviors in animal cognition. The adopted framework is an abductive/semiotic one. The first section frames animal cognition as more than “merely” instinctual, making room for the possibility of some kind of mental representations in nonhuman cognition. The second section proposes a case of insect communication where it is possible to individuate a kind of deception. The third section argues for the understanding of deception, a ultimately morally-laden concept, as an emerging phenomenon where the growing semiotic complexity plays a fundamental role.