

Northumbria Research Link

Citation: Defeyter, Margaret Anne (Greta) (2011) The nature of ownership : The role of object kind and historical intuitions. In: Northumbria Research Conference, 5-6 May 2011, Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

URL:

This version was downloaded from Northumbria Research Link:
<https://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/2788/>

Northumbria University has developed Northumbria Research Link (NRL) to enable users to access the University's research output. Copyright © and moral rights for items on NRL are retained by the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. Single copies of full items can be reproduced, displayed or performed, and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided the authors, title and full bibliographic details are given, as well as a hyperlink and/or URL to the original metadata page. The content must not be changed in any way. Full items must not be sold commercially in any format or medium without formal permission of the copyright holder. The full policy is available online: <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/policies.html>

This document may differ from the final, published version of the research and has been made available online in accordance with publisher policies. To read and/or cite from the published version of the research, please visit the publisher's website (a subscription may be required.)

The nature of ownership: The role of object kind and historical intuitions

Dr. Greta Defeyter

Email: greta.defeyter@northumbria.ac.uk

0191 227 3291

Abstract:

Researchers across many disciplines have increasingly begun to focus on questions surrounding adults and children's abilities to infer object ownership. Researchers have shown that by age two, toddlers can infer object ownership when not explicitly told (Friedman & Neary, 2008); and recognise ownership transfers from around age three (Kanngiesser, Giersoe, & Hood, in press). However, an issue that is often obscured within the literature has been possible differences between judging ownership of natural kinds versus artifacts. Two studies investigated the relative importance of object kind and object context in adults and 5-to 6-year-olds. In both experiments, participants saw 15 familiar natural kinds and 15 familiar artifacts randomly presented in blocks of 15 objects on a computer screen. The results showed that participants significantly judged more artifacts as being owned compared to natural kinds. However, there were age differences dependent upon the context in which the objects were presented. The results of the current paper are discussed in terms of an historical-narrative account of object ownership (Friedman, Neary, Defeyter & Malcolm) incorporating an account of possible developmental differences in notions of abandonment.