**“The Evolution of Agency”**

**Michael Tomasello**

Nature cannot build organisms biologically prepared for every contingency they might possibly encounter. Instead, Nature builds some organisms to function as feedback control systems that pursue goals, make informed behavioral decisions about how best to pursue those goals in the current situation, and then monitor behavioral execution for effectiveness. Nature builds psychological agents. I propose a typology of different types of agency in creatures that were ancestral to humans: goal-directed agency in early vertebrates, intentional agency in early mammals, rational agency in early apes, and shared agency in early humans.