**Article Summary Sheet**

**TITLE: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**

**AUTHORS: (Frans deWaal, 2008)**

**YEAR:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1) What is a biological definition of altruism? How is this different from the definitions we have discussed so far?

2) What are the underpinnings of evolutionary explanations and the problem of motivation?

3) What are the proximate vs. ultimate viewpoints and how are they related?

4) What is directed altruism, and how does it come about?

5) What are different ways that altruistic behavior is promoted?

6) How is empathy defined by biologists? How is it different from the definitions we’ve been talking about this semester?

**ORIGIN OF EMPATHY:**

1) How did empathy come about?

2) What evidence do we have to support this theory?

**LEVELS OF EMPATHY:**

Emotional Contagion

1) What is emotional contagion?

2) What are some examples from both humans and non-humans of this phenomenon?

Sympathetic Concern

1) What is the difference between sympathy and personal distress in regard to concern for others?

2) What is consolation? When do we see it, and in what animals?

Empathic Perspective-Taking

1) According to the author, what is the faulty logic in psychologists’ conceptualization of the relationship between empathy and perspective taking?

2) Do we see perspective-taking in animals? Explain.

3) What is the relationship between mirror self-recognition (MSR) and empathy? In what animals do we find this?

4) What is the relationship between MSR and perspective taking?

**UNDERLYING MECHANISMS**

Perception Action Mechanism

1) What is the theory of the Perception Action Mechanism (Preston & de Waal 2002a)?

2) What neural evidence do we have of this?

3) What does the evidence tell us about empathy and perspective taking?

Russian Doll Model

1) What is the Russian Doll model in regards to the PAM, empathy, and perspective taking?

2) What evidence do we have of this in nonhuman primates?

**FROM EMPATHY TO ALTRUISM**

Emotional Contagion

 Explain how personal distress and emotional contagion are adaptive.

Sympathetic Concern

What evidence of sympathetic concern/empathy do we have in nonhuman primates?

Empathic Perspective-Taking

What evidence of perspective-taking do we have in nonhuman animals?

**EMPATHY AS EVOLVED PROXIMATE MECHANISM OF DIRECTED ALTRUISM**

1) What evidence do we have that humans have little control (it’s automatic) over empathic activation?

2) What is the prediction of the PAM for similarity between subject and object?

3) What about relationship closeness?

4) What is the author’s stance on whether helping another is actually helping oneself?