

Are Humans Generous by Nature?

The Human Generosity Project is the first large-scale transdisciplinary research project to investigate the relationship between biological and cultural influences on human generosity. We use multiple methodologies to understand the nature and evolution of human generosity including fieldwork, laboratory experiments and computational modeling.

In the Laboratory

Studying generosity in the lab allows us to explore how people share in simulated ecological conditions and social networks. Our laboratory work focuses on developing new measures of cooperation based on managing risk and exploring the cultural, ecological and social influences on sharing behavior.

Computational Models of Generosity

Computational models of sharing and generosity complement fieldwork and laboratory experiments. We use agent-based models and network models to ask how different sharing rules shape social interactions and large-scale outcomes. We have found that systems of sharing based on need can help manage risk, thus enhancing both the survival of individuals and the resilience of the communities to which they belong.

Contact

Learn More

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Psychology is an academic unit of ASU's
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.



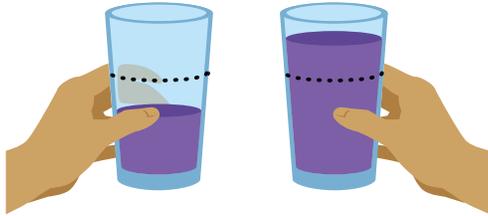
The Human
Generosity Project

Understanding
human cooperation
around the world

What Are Need Based Transfers?

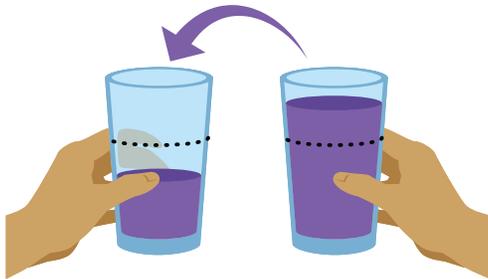
1 Request

Request to fill a need is made.



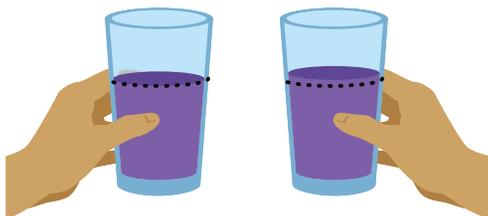
2 Response

Request is granted, as long as there are enough resources.



3 Outcome

Limited risk pooling between partners, better survival.



Field Sites

Need-based transfers at field sites around the world



1

Maasai Kenya

Oсотua need-based sharing partnerships



5

Ranchers USA

Neighbors helping neighbors in need



2

Fijians Fiji

Kerekere need-based sharing norms



6

Karimojong Uganda

Akoneo need-based sharing partnerships



3

Hadza Tanzania

Central-place need-based food sharing



7

Ik Uganda

Maranga tomora norms of sharing based on need



4

Herders Mongolia

Cooperative risk management in harsh environments



8

Kijenge Tanzania

Kushirikiana need-based sharing norms

