



## *From Neuroscience to the Classroom*

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*Emotion and Social Learning*

**Abstract:**

In rapidly changing environments, humans and other animals often glean information about the value of objects and behaviors through social learning. In humans, for example, observing others' behaviors and their consequences, enables the transmission of a wide range of value-based information, from what stimuli should be avoided or approached to the appropriateness of specific social behaviors. In contrast to learning from direct, personal, experiences, little is known about the mechanisms underlying these forms of social learning. I will discuss studies using behavioral, imaging, and pharmacological techniques examining both the sender and receiver during various forms of social learning. Consistent with research across species, our results show that social learning (especially of threat and safety) draws on processes partially shared with direct conditioning, and extinction learning. Importantly, the outcome of social learning is distinguished by its dependence on social cognition.

**About:**

Dr. Andreas Olsson received his PhD in experimental psychology from New York University (2006). Until 2008 he was a post-doctoral research fellow at Columbia University. He then moved to Karolinska Institutet, where he was appointed an Associate professor and a research group leader in 2011. He is the founder and director of the Emotion Lab ([www.emotionlab.se](http://www.emotionlab.se)). The broad aim of Dr. Olsson's research is to describe and model the psychological and neural foundations of emotional learning and regulation in social situations. Dr. Olsson has >50 publications in peer-reviewed, scientific journals, including *Science*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *Nature Communication*, *Psychological Science*, and *Trends in Cognitive Science*. Dr. Olsson has obtained several national and international scientific awards and grants, including an individual Starting Grant from the European Research Council (ERC). In 2015, he was named a Wallenberg Academy Fellow.