

**Abstract:** Individual property is a rarity in most species of nonhuman primates, most likely because their lifestyles are not conducive to the maintenance of property. Most primate species lack specific areas which could be used for storage (e.g. dens or caching sites) and most foods quickly deteriorate, making long-term storage impractical. Nonetheless, just because these species do not frequently maintain property does not mean that they lack the propensity to do so. For instance, some communal property, such as well-defended home ranges, is evident, and some of these species show evidence of 'possession norms,' or respect of property which is in one's physical possession. Moreover, a series of recent experiments have examined how nonhuman primates treat property, demonstrating that they show some of the same biases as humans. For instance, several primate species are known to show an endowment effect, preferring to maintain possession of property that they have in their possession rather than trading it for other (presumably superior) items. Finally, chimpanzees are also quite good at barter, either between themselves and a human experimenter or between conspecifics, yet they show little inclination to do so in risky or potentially costly situations. This may indicate that property concepts beyond possession are challenging for chimpanzees, possibly due to the risks involved. In this paper, I will argue that the evidence indicates that primates have at minimum a rudimentary sense of property in which possession is respected, but not necessarily objects which have left one's possession. This is likely due to the lack of social and institutional controls for maintaining property that have been so well developed in humans (e.g. through gossip or legal mechanisms). By comparing these data in other primates to that available in humans, we gain a better understanding of how human property concepts have evolved.