

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



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## Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

Birds and Babies: A comparison of the early development in vocal learners.

Sita M. ter Haar

1. Vocal development in songbirds and human infants is guided by experience-dependent and experience-independent processes. (this thesis)
2. Perceptual preferences and subsequent child language production show similar developmental patterns. (this thesis)
3. Experience independent perceptual biases affect vocal learning in songbirds, but can be partially overridden by experience. (this thesis)
4. Zebra finch populations show both uniformity and variation in song phonology (elements), while patterns in 'phonological syntax' are dominated by variability. (this thesis)
5. Belonging to the same species as your research subjects may either facilitate or hinder scientific progress.
6. The fact that a behavior can be performed does not necessarily mean it is a natural behavior.
7. Nature and nurture are not mutually exclusive.
8. Comparing apples and oranges can teach us about the nature of fruit.
9. Research experience abroad is overestimated.
10. To avoid losing, a winning team should occasionally change (contra never change a winning team).
11. If an idealist wants to change the world towards his or her ideals, he or she should be realistic.
12. Humor and science entail a similar clever mental attitude.