

Sex and Logic: the evolution of negation

One hears in various quarters that a rational approach and appeal to logic indicate a peculiarly male flight from intimacy. I argue instead that a key part of the evolution of logic, in particular, of negation, could have been mutually supporting with the evolution of intimacy—or at least of sexual reproduction. On this model the pressures favoring that part of logic would have been symmetrical between the sexes in important ways. But sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. Not everything here is about sex, since there are models of the evolution of proto-negation that proceed instead from interacting pressures of nutrition and predation that have a different structure and that could explain more sophisticated steps in the evolution of logical form.