

## 6SSEL045 – Language Origins

### Lecture 2 Interactive: What happens when a human tells a lie?

When a nonhuman attempts to deceive, they either succeed and gain a short-term advantage, or they fail and suffer a short-term disadvantage. In this circumstance, deception may be advantageous. However, if the species uses social calculus then a failed deception will also cause the deceiver to suffer a longer-term disadvantage: their social standing is affected by the deceit. Humans use social calculus, so what mechanisms make deception useful to humans? Do humans treat some types of deception differently from others?

