

Please join the ISP Lab for a talk on:

**The “Haves” and the “Have-Nots”:
Age-Related Changes in Children’s Judgments of
Behaviors Under Resource Scarcity**

Margaret Echelbarger, M.A.



Though considered bad, stealing may actually be necessary for survival. Just consider Robin Hood who robbed from the rich to give to the poor, or a parent slipping away from the grocery store with an unpaid-for load of bread to feed their child. Perhaps stealing to survive isn’t that bad. We tested whether children 4-13 years of age and adults consider resource availability and group membership when judging the permissibility of resource consumption—in effect, is it okay for the poor to eat from the rich? Participants judged individuals who consumed ingroup resources (e.g., a *Hibble* eating a *Hibble* berry) or outgroup resources (e.g., a *Hibble* eating a *Glerk* berry); the relative availability of resources was varied. Consistent with prior work, participants judged eating from the outgroup as bad, especially when the outgroup’s resources were scarce. Crucially, though, older children and adults (but not younger children), judged it as more acceptable for individuals from scarcely-resourced groups to eat from the abundantly-resourced outgroup. Implications for development and society more broadly will be discussed.

Work conducted with Steven O. Roberts (Stanford University) and Susan A. Gelman (University of Michigan).

Bio:

Margaret Echelbarger is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in Developmental Psychology at the University of Michigan, working with Susan Gelman. Prior to Michigan, she received a master’s in Child Language from the University of Kansas. She is interested in the origins of judgment and decision-making, with an emphasis on how children come to value items. You can learn more about her work here: www.mechelbarger.com.

**Thursday, August 17
11:00am
Sakamaki C204B
(large conference room)**