Theory of Mind and Individual Differences

While often cited as a feature of language processing, Theory of Mind (aka mindreading or mentalizing) is generally viewed as a monolithic structure that lurks in the background of language exchanges before getting involved from time to time with respect to certain pragmatic phenomena. In this part, I will go over studies – on irony, jokes and reference – to determine how mindreading abilities vary among listeners and how they affect processing. These results show that mindreading runs deep in language processing. Meanwhile this approach underlines the importance of investigating individual differences in experimental pragmatics.