

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis deals with tactical deception in the context of evolutionary psychology. Its aim is to summarize the findings related to this topic into a coherent overview. In the first chapter of the thesis the concept of deceptive behaviour is defined and linked to the concept of evolutionary psychology, then deceptive behaviour is divided into several levels. In the following chapters, tactical deception is defined, and its different types are introduced. Furthermore, the cognitive functions associated with tactical deception are discussed. The remainder of the theoretical part of the thesis is devoted to the distribution of tactical deception in the animal kingdom and several hypotheses for the possible origin of tactical deception are presented.

The empirical part of this thesis presents a research design to test the hypothesis that the degree of tactical deception behaviour in different primate species depends on the steepness of their hierarchical organization. The research design adopts methods used by other researchers, namely, the Elo-rating method of measuring hierarchical ordering and the experimental method of informed gathering used to observe tactical deception behaviour.

**Key words:** tactical deception; evolutionary psychology; primates; deception; evolution