

Asunto: Invitation - BME Cognitive Seminar Series / Meghívó - BME Kognitív Szeminárium sorozat

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Fecha: 2013.04.05. 15:48

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We cordially invite you to the next lecture of the BME Cognitive Seminar Series:

Date & Time: April 15, Monday, 12:00-13:00

Location: BME, XI., Egry József utca 1., T. ép 515.

Cold-blooded social cognition

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Abstract

The evolution of highly developed sociality is often cited as one of the main behavioural characteristics that differentiate us from non-human animals. Thus one principal aim of comparative cognition research is to shed light to uniquely human socio-cognitive skills in contrast to those ones that are shared with other species. Here I will briefly present the main approaches to comparative cognition and then focus on those basic social behaviours that are shared by humans and low-level vertebrates – reptiles. It is a wide spread notion that reptiles are non-social animals, although ample evidence has been gathered from field investigations that contradicts this assumption. I will present some of the more recent studies demonstrating that reptiles are able to follow the gaze of a conspecific and that they spontaneously learn from a social demonstration in various contexts including the two-action task. These results indicate that several socio-cognitive abilities are likely based on evolutionarily ancient mechanisms.

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