

グローバル COE 主催講演会のお知らせ

日程：2009年12月18日（金） 15：00～17：00

会場：京都大学文学研究科2F第7講義室

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Jane Kiley Hamlin

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“The Developmental Origins of Social and Moral Evaluation”

【Abstract】

This talk tracks the developmental origins of the adult propensity to evaluate others based on their social behaviors. It will examine findings suggesting that even in the first few months of life, preverbal infants distinguish those who engage in third-party prosocial versus third-party antisocial interactions, and prefer prosocial to antisocial others in a variety of social scenarios. It will then examine the consequences of these judgments for intuitions about personality, reward and punishment, group membership, and social learning.

Pier Francesco Ferrari

(Dipartimento di Biologia Evolutiva e Funzionale, and Dipartimento di Neuroscienze, Università di Parma, Italy)

"From Mirror Neurons to Imitation and Empathy. A Bottom-Up Approach to Social Cognition"

【Abstract】

In the last few years, the tremendous growth in the study of primate cognitive neuroscience has provided important insights to the understanding of sensory and motor processes taking place in the monkey brain, and, more generally, our knowledge of the organization of the cerebral cortex. The discovery of the mirror neuron system in both monkeys and humans has had large impact on different disciplines such as ethology, developmental psychology and psychiatry, thus paving the way to a series of investigations aimed at understanding the possible functions of mirror neurons and their implications for human psychopathologies.

I will first describe the basic properties of mirror neurons in the macaque monkey and of the mirror system in humans. Then, I will present hypotheses related to the possible function of mirror neurons. The possible role of these neurons in primate cognition seems not to be limited to action recognition, as firstly proposed, but also to other cognitive processes, such as intention understanding, imitation and emotional contagion. More interestingly recent behavioural and neurophysiological data on infant macaques suggest that monkeys are provided at birth with a neurophysiological mechanism, probably underpinned by mirror neurons, that allow them to understand others' behaviors and to tune the own behavior with that of others in an interactive exchange. Neurophysiological research in monkeys has now provided deeper insights into the interpretation of certain neurological syndromes and psychopathologies, and has provided a new theoretical basis for understanding basic cognitive functions commonly used to interact with others in our everyday life.

付記：本講演会は、基盤研究 S「意識・内省・読心—認知的メ
タプロセスの発生と機能」（代表：藤田和生）のサポートを受けて
います。