

Animal Research in Cognitive and Behavioural Science

A panel and audience discussion

Invited Guests:

Prof. Dr. Stefan Treue, Director of the German Primate Research Centre, Göttingen

Prof. Dr. Christa Thöne-Reineke, Responsible for Animal Welfare, FU Berlin

Dr. Richard Moore, Philosopher and Cognitive Scientist, HU Berlin

Dr. Mimi Arandjelovic, Project coordinator of the Pan African Programme, MPI Leipzig

Moderation: Clara Kuper

Organisation: Clara Kuper, Master Student of "Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, FU Berlin (contact: claraqper@zedat.fu-berlin.de) and Prof. Dr. Katja Liebal, Research Group of Comparative Developmental Psychology, FU Berlin

Animal welfare in research does not only concern scientists working with animals but is of growing interest for the public, as well. When it comes to Cognitive Science, growing public concern and criticism focusses on neurophysiological recordings in primates and rats – so called “invasive methods”. Following the “3R” principle of **R**eplacement, **R**eduction, **R**efinement, many research institutes try to find alternatives to animal research or to apply methods which reduce the strain on the animals. Despite the coarse resolution of neuroimaging techniques such as EEG and fMRI, these methods may be promising tools to tackle this challenge.

Questions about animal welfare in research are not exclusively relevant for invasive research but should be asked in any study involving animals – including behavioural experiments in zoos and observation studies in wildlife. Behavioural scientists – just as Neurophysiologists – are required to re-think their methodology and their approach to the species they study.

Animal research is an emotional and timely question. The discussion “Animal Research in Cognitive and Behavioural Science” brings together researchers from different fields. What they have in common is that their research involves studies of animals. The invited speakers will discuss a set of questions on the panel. Following, the audience is invited to ask questions and engage in the discussion. We invited everyone with a scientific interest in animal research and/or cognitive and behavioural science to attend the discussion.

Our aim as organizers is to motivate the exchange of differing and controversial opinions. The ethical debate on animal research will always require compromises and we encourage every participant to show respect and tolerance towards everyone taking part in the discussion.

Guests:

Prof. Dr. Stefan Treue studied Biology in Frankfurt (Main) and Heidelberg. During his PhD at the MIT, he got first practical experiences with Neuroanatomy and Electrophysiology. As head of the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory in Goettingen, he investigates the neuronal basics of sensory perception in general and vision in particular. Since 2001, he is director of the German Primate Centre in Göttingen. For his research and his contributions to the understanding of attention, he received the Leibniz-Preis from the DFG in 2010. Together with other scientist from physiology and medical research, Stefan Treue engages in the initiative "Tierversuche verstehen" that aims for a better public understanding of animal research.

Prof. Dr. Christa Thoene-Reineke studied veterinary medicine at Freie Universität Berlin. During her scientific career, she worked on the cardiovascular system and diabetes in the mice model and was responsible for animal welfare at the German Institute for nutrition science in Bergholz-Rehbrücke, at Charité Berlin and at FU Berlin. She is veterinary specialist of physiology and Laboratory Animal Science. Since 2014 she has been Professor for Animal Welfare, Animal Behavior and Laboratory Animal Science at FU Berlin. Her teaching concept for replacement and refinement methods in animal research has been awarded a prize from the senate of Berlin.

Dr. Richard Moore is a Philosopher and Cognitive Scientist. He studied philosophy in Birmingham and Amsterdam and obtained his doctor in philosophy at the University of Warwick. Currently, he works as postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Philosophy at Humboldt Universität. He is specialised in Philosophy of Mind, Language, Cognitive Development and Primate Communication. Methodologically, he conducts behavioural research with Great Apes in the zoo of Leipzig.

Dr. Mimi Arandjelovic is a Canadian biologist with a focus on genetics, molecular ecology and conservation biology. As research coordinator of the Pan African Program, she engages in understanding the chimpanzee culture in wildlife. She uses video monitoring of apes and DNA-extraction from non-invasively collected material, helping to preserve the chimpanzee populations in Africa. Her scientific interest lies in unravelling the evolutionary trajectories of Great Apes.

Moderator:

Clara Kuper is a student of the "Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience" master program at FU Berlin and works as a student assistant on human visual perception in the Emmy-Noether-group of Dr. Martin Rolfs at the BCCN in Berlin.

Date and Time:

Monday, 24th April 2017

4 PM – 6 PM

Where:

Habelschwerdter Allee 45

Hörsaal 1b

After the debate, speakers and interested participants may join a common table at the "Ristorante Galileo", Otto-von-Simson Straße 26, 14195 Berlin.