

NATURAL COGNITION

LOGIC, EVOLUTION, ORGANISMS

December 14-15, 2013

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts and Humanities University of Macau, China

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Contemporary research on comparative cognition tends to support Charles Darwin's claim that the difference between human and non-human minds is "one of degree and not of kind". This hypothesis is still controversial, however, and the question of how and why human cognitive competences may differ from those of other animals does not concern only comparative cognition, but a host of different fields as well. On the other hand, the very lack of an all-embracing definition of cognition involves the intervention of philosophy in monitoring the discussion. The aim of this conference is to promote an interdisciplinary discussion on the foundations of an evolutionary approach to cognition, bringing together scholars working in biology, logic, cognitive psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and philosophy.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Marcello D'Agostino (University of Ferrara)

Stefano Puglisi-Allegra (University La Sapienza of Rome)

Corrado Sinigaglia (University of Milan)

Shigeru Watanabe (Centre for Advanced Research on Logic and Sensibility, Keio University)

Tian-Ming Yang (Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai)

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite proposals that directly contribute to or intersect with the theme of the conference. Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Experimental, theoretical and methodological issues of comparative cognition

- Evolutionary origin of human logic
- Non-inferential processes in cognition
- Formation of concepts
- Metacognition and its role in reasoning
- Spatial and numerical cognition in animals
- Planning, memory and mental time travel
- Continuity vs. discontinuity between human and non-human cognition
- Evidence of and challenges to the uniqueness of human cognition

Submission of both theoretical papers and empirical research papers, as well as the submission of research paper at earlier stages of work are encouraged.

Abstracts should not exceed 500 words, they should be in English, and be submitted in Adobe pdf format by the 15th October 2013 to the organizers (ndolcini@umac.mo; mpiazza@unich.it).

Notification of accepted proposals will be sent by the 3rd of November.

We plan to publish selected and updated papers in an academic journal or in a book.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline: 15 October 2013

Notification of acceptance: 3 November 2013

Conference: 14-15 December 2013

CONTACT INFORMATION

Inquiries and clarifications about the conference can be addressed to the organizers. For information about practical matters please contact Ms. Isa Chan (isachan@umac.mo). For information about the University of Macau, please visit www.umac.mo. The conference website will be available by the end of September.

ORGANIZERS

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