

Core Academic Staff
Faculty PhD supervisors

Dr Gillian Brown
Centre Co-Director



(Reader, Psychology & Neuroscience)
Evolutionary perspectives on human behaviour.
Development of behaviour, focusing on sex differences in behavioural development in rodents and primates.

Prof Richard Byrne FRSE
(Psychology & Neuroscience)



Applying comparative evidence to reconstruct cognitive evolution. Field studies of primate and elephant intelligence focus on communication, navigation and manual skill.

Prof Josep Call FRSE
(Psychology & Neuroscience)



Problem solving, causal and inferential reasoning, mindreading, comparative cognition and cognitive evolution.

Prof Malinda Carpenter
(Psychology & Neuroscience)



Development of social cognition particularly imitation, joint attention, pre-verbal communication, prosocial behaviour and group membership.

Dr Juan-Carlos Gomez



(Reader, Psychology & Neuroscience)
Communication, intentionality, Theory of mind in monkeys, apes, human infants, and in Autism.

Dr Sue Healy
(Reader, Biology)



Spatial cognition, including sex differences, in birds, rodents and humans. Nest building and vocal mimicry in birds and the evolution of brain size in vertebrates.

Dr Cat Hobaiter
(Psychology & Neuroscience)



Evolution of communication, cognition, and social behaviour, in particular field studies of great apes focused on gesture, multimodal communication.

Prof Vincent Janik
(Director, Scottish Oceans Institute, Biology)



Evolution of complexity in communication and social behaviour, with a particular focus on marine mammals.

Professor Kevin Laland FRSE (Biology)



Experimental and modelling studies of social learning, culture and niche construction in fish, birds and mammals.

Prof Patrick Miller (Biology)



Social behaviour, acoustic communication and foraging behaviour of cetaceans, utilizing both observational and experimental approaches.



University of St Andrews

Centre for Social Learning and Cognitive Evolution

The Centre brings together a substantial group of scientists in the Schools of Biology and Psychology & Neuroscience at the University of St Andrews who share a distinctive set of common research interests. A core academic staff of 18 are currently joined by independent research fellows, fixed term lecturers, over 20 postdoctoral research staff and approximately 50 PhD students.

Research spans comparative, evolutionary and developmental studies of social learning, culture, cognition and communication. A very broad range of taxonomic groups is studied, including multiple avian, cetacean and other mammalian species, with a significant focus on both human and non-human primates.

Core collaborations within and between the two Schools include joint grants and projects, co-authorship of articles and books, shared supervision and training of postgraduates and joint organisation of scientific meetings.

Funding

Since its inception in 2003, scientists in the Centre have gained over £35M in research funding from bodies that include BBSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, The Leverhulme Trust, The Wellcome Trust, The Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Scottish Government, The Royal Society, The British Academy, EC, ERC, The John Templeton Foundation, The Office of Naval Research and the Australian Research Council.

Contact Information

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Research Facilities and Field Sites

Research is conducted at field sites around the world, including studies of dolphins around Australia, other cetacean studies across the world's oceans, tool-using crows on New Caledonia and chimpanzees and other primates in Uganda's Budongo Forest, where Prof Zuberbühler is Scientific Director of the field site, with base funding from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland.

The University's 'Living Links to Human Evolution' Research Centre is located in Edinburgh Zoo, holding a mixed species community of over 70 capuchin and squirrel monkeys, alongside the Budongo Trail chimpanzee centre. Primate research is also conducted at major overseas facilities including the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology's Köhler Centre in Leipzig and the chimpanzee centre in Bastrop, Texas.



Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Opportunities

Research Fellowships:

Researchers wishing to apply for their own postdoctoral research fellowships from such sources as the Royal Society, The British Academy, Newton and Marie Curie Fellowships are welcome and are invited to inspect such funding options listed in our website and contact relevant PIs. see www.st-andrews.ac.uk/psychology/research/fellowships/

PhD: Potential applicants should consult relevant pages of advice in the two Schools' webpages and make contact with likely supervisors before applying.

MSc in Comparative and Evolutionary Psychology: The Origins of Mind. This Masters course is taught by staff in the School of Psychology & Neuroscience. It provides advanced training in humans and other animals' evolutionary and comparative approaches to the study of the mind. Students acquire knowledge of empirical, theoretical and methodological issues, plus statistical and research skills for evolutionary psychology.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/psychology/prospective/pg/

biology.st-andrews.ac.uk/postgraduate/

synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/solace/



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Professor David Perrett FRSE FBA
(Psychology & Neuroscience)



Evolutionary basis of social cognition, with particular focus on perception of facial and bodily cues of attractiveness, emotion, health, personality and intentions.

Dr Luke Rendell (Reader, Biology)



The evolution of culture, communication and social structure in humans, cetaceans and other animals.

Dr Christian Rutz



(Reader, Biology)
Evolutionary origins and ecological context of tool use in non-human animals, with a particular interest in New Caledonian crows.

Dr Amanda Seed (Director, Living Links Centre, Psychology & Neuroscience)



Nature and origins of conceptual thought and causal knowledge. Problem-solving in children, non-human primates and birds.

Emeritus Professor Peter Slater FRSE (Biology)



Vocal communication, social learning and vocal traditions in birds and mammals, studied in the field and laboratory.

Prof Peter Tyack FRSE



Centre Co-Director (Biology) Evolution of vocal learning in mammals, especially to mediate relationships between individuals and groups. Field methods to study communication among marine mammals.

Emeritus Professor Andrew Whiten FRSE FBA



(Psychology & Neuroscience)
Development and evolution of social cognition, with a particular focus on social learning, and culture in human and non-human primates.

Professor Klaus Zuberbühler FRSE



(Psychology & Neuroscience)
Social, ecological and cognitive factors in the evolution of communication and language, with a focus on field studies of monkeys and apes.

Honorary Professor Professor William McGrew FRSE



Fixed-term Lecturers

Dr Erin Robbins (Psychology & Neuroscience)

Dr Kate Cross (Psychology & Neuroscience)

Dr Christoph Völter (Psychology and Neuroscience)

Dr Mike Webster (Biology)

Independent Research Fellows

Dr Lauren Guillette (Biology) BBSRC Future Leaders Fellow