

Core Academic Staff
Faculty PhD supervisors

Dr Gillian Brown Centre Co-Director
Reader, Psychology and Neuroscience
Evolutionary perspectives on human behaviour.
Development of behaviour, focusing on sex differences in behavioural development in rodents and primates.



Prof Josep Call FRSE
Psychology and Neuroscience
Problem solving, causal and inferential reasoning, mindreading, comparative cognition and cognitive evolution.



Prof Malinda Carpenter
Psychology and Neuroscience
Development of social cognition particularly imitation, joint attention, pre-verbal communication, prosocial behaviour and group membership.



Dr Catherine Cross
Lecturer, Psychology and Neuroscience
Sex differences in human social behaviour, including aggression, impulsivity, confidence and conformity; evolution of variation in human behaviour and the role of context.



Dr Ellen Garland
RS University Research Fellow, Biology
Animal culture, social learning, bioacoustics and behavioural ecology, focusing on cetaceans; vocal sequence analysis; conservation management.



Dr Juan-Carlos Gomez
Reader, Psychology and Neuroscience
Communication, intentionality, Theory of mind in monkeys, apes, human infants, and in Autism.



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



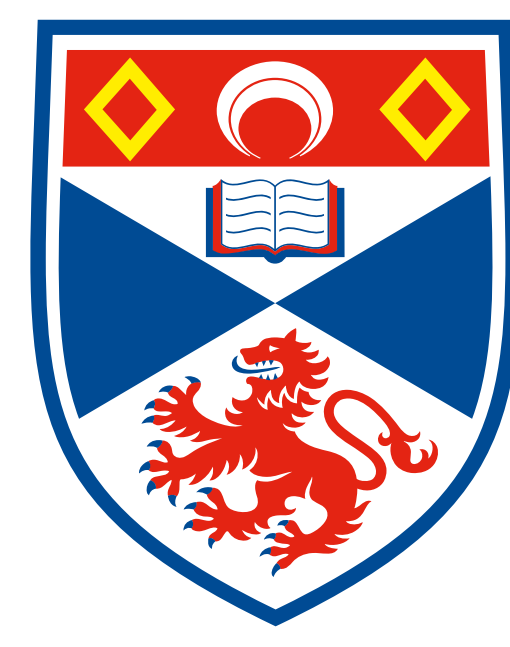
Dr Cat Hobaiter
Lecturer, Psychology and Neuroscience
Evolution of communication, cognition, and social behaviour, in particular field studies of great apes focused on gesture, multimodal communication.



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.



University of
St Andrews

Centre for Social Learning and Cognitive Evolution

The Centre brings together a group of researchers in the Schools of Biology and Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of St Andrews (UK) who share common interests in the study of social learning, cultural evolution and cognitive evolution. A core set of 20 academic staff across the two Schools are joined by over 20 researcher staff and 50 postgraduate research students.

Our members conduct research on a broad range of species, including fish, birds, cetaceans, non-human primates and human beings. We have been highly successful at getting grant funding (approximately £12M in the past 6 years), publishing in high-impact journals, having impact with our research outside of academia, and presenting our research as national and international science fairs.

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 Swiss National Science Foundation, The Office of Naval Research and the Australian Research Council.

Contact information

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Research facilities and field sites

Fieldwork is conducted at a range of international sites and includes the studies of chimpanzee behaviour at the Budongo Forest in Uganda, hummingbirds in Canada, and whales and dolphins in oceans across the globe.

Observational studies are carried out on well-maintained captive primate populations, for example at the Living Links to Human Evolution and Budongo Trail centres at Edinburgh Zoo and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology's Köhler Centre in Leipzig.

Our researchers study human behaviour in the University's Jeeves Laboratories and child development in the University's Baby and Child Lab, plus at a range of public science venues, and we use theoretical approaches to the evolution of behaviour.



Postgraduate opportunities

We offer two research-focused degree programmes (three-year PhD; one-year MSc by Research) and three, one-year Taught Postgraduate programmes:

PhD
(three years, research-focused)

MSc by Research
(one-year, research-focused)

MSc in Animal Behaviour
(one-year, taught course)

MSc in Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology
(one-year, taught course)

MSc in Marine Mammal Science
(one-year, taught course)

Postdoctoral Opportunities

In addition to applying for advertised postdoctoral positions, researchers are encouraged to apply for independent research fellowships (see www.st-andrews.ac.uk/psychology/research/fellowships/).

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

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



Core Academic Staff
Faculty PhD supervisors

Prof Patrick Miller Biology
Social behaviour, acoustic communication and foraging behaviour of cetaceans, utilizing both observational and experimental approaches.



Professor David Perrett FRSE FBA
Psychology and 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 Erin Robbins
Lecturer, Psychology and Neuroscience
Origins and development of social cognition; moral reasoning and inequity aversion; cross-cultural studies of cognitive development in children.



Prof 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 Manon Schweinfurth
Lecturer, Psychology and Neuroscience
Evolutionary and psychological origins of cooperation; in non-human primates and rodents; game theoretical models.



Dr Amanda Seed
Senior Lecturer, Director, Living Links Centre, Psychology and Neuroscience
Nature and origins of conceptual thought and causal knowledge. Problem-solving in children, non-human primates and birds.



Prof Peter Tyack FRSE
Centre Co-Director Biology
Function and mechanisms, and costs and benefits, of living in groups; social organisation and social learning in the laboratory and field.



Dr Michael Webster Lecturer, Biology
Function and mechanisms, and costs and benefits, of living in groups; social organisation and social learning in the laboratory and field.



Professor Klaus Zuberbühler FRSE
Psychology and Neuroscience
Social, ecological and cognitive factors in the evolution of communication and language, with a focus on field studies of monkeys and apes.



Emeritus, Honorary and Education-focused staff
Prof Richard Byrne (Psychology and Neuroscience)
Prof William McGrew (Psychology and Neuroscience)
Dr Julie Oswald (Biology)
Prof Peter Slater (Biology)
Prof Andy Whiten (Psychology and Neuroscience)