

Symposium 33: What is special about 'social'?

Sponsored by the British Psychological Society

Theme: Attention, motivation, behaviour

Thursday 13th April, 9:00 – 10:40

The social nature of humans is at the heart of our species. Preferential processing of social stimuli is observed from early on in human development. Atypicalities in the processing of such stimuli are associated with psychopathological conditions, such as Autism. But what, if anything, is special about 'social'? This symposium will explore this question from phylogenetic and ontogenetic perspectives. Insights from psychophysics will elucidate the parameter space of what constitutes 'social', and those from psychopathology will consider the nature and impact of atypicalities in the processing of social stimuli.

Chair: Professor Bhisimadev Chakrabarti (University of Reading)

Speaker 1: Professor Robin Dunbar (University of Oxford)

'Phylogenetic perspectives'

Speaker 2: Professor Mark Johnson (Birkbeck, University of London)

'Developmental perspectives'

Speaker 3: Dr Rachael Jack (University of Glasgow)

'Insights from Psychophysics'

Speaker 4: Dr Antonia Hamilton (University College London)

'Insights from Psychopathology'