



We are pleased to announce the invited symposium:

"The study of individual differences in animals – recent developments"

The study of individual differences in nonhuman animals is a rapidly growing field that made significant advances over the last decade. The symposium aims to highlight the potentials of comparative approaches that arise from the greater opportunities for naturalistic behaviour observation and experimental control in nonhuman species, from their more diverse neurological, behavioural, psychological, and social systems, and their greater variety in ecological adaptations and phylogenetic histories. Distinguished speakers from psychobiology, biology, and differential psychology provide an overview of recent developments. Molecular-genetic studies unravel how gene-environment interactions shape individual differences in the bio-behavioral development of monkeys. Longitudinal studies in wild birds explore patterns and mechanisms of the ontogenetic development and plasticity of personality differences in the context of their potential adaptivity and evolutionary function. The theoretical and practical consequences of individual differences in pigs and dogs, and methodological difficulties of their assessment in animal management are discussed with a special focus on their relevance for animal welfare. The peculiarities of comparative research, especially the diversity among nonhuman species and their lack of self-reports necessitate the development of new meta-theoretical and methodological approaches that also help to critically re-evaluate and extend traditional research approaches to individual differences in humans.

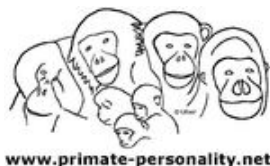
Our invited speakers are:

- Gene-environment interactions shape individual differences in Rhesus monkey bio-behavioral development. **Stephen J. Suomi** (*Laboratory of Comparative Ethology, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, U.S.*)
- Development of animal personalities: Some concepts and findings. **Ton G.G. Groothuis** (*Institute for Behaviour and Neuroscience, University of Groningen, NL*) & **Claudio Carere** (*Department of Ecology and Sustainable Development, University of Tuscia, Italy*)
- Personality differences in dogs. **Björn Forkman** (*Department of Large Animal Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*)
- Investigating Aggressive Temperament in Pigs. **Richard B. D'Eath** (*Scottish Agricultural College, United Kingdom*)
- A non-lexical taxonomic approach to individual differences in humans and nonhuman animals **Jana Uher** (*Department of Psychology, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany*)

We are looking forward to meeting you in London.

Jana Uher & Björn Forkman.
Symposium convenors

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