

Masters in Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: The Origins of Mind

MSc:

150 credits: PS5005, PS5010, PS5011, PS5012, PS5013

30 credits: PS4085, PS4086, PS4096, PS5003, PS5021, PS5031, or other approved 4000 level modules.

Compulsory modules Semester 1:

PS5010 Principal Approaches to the Origins of Mind				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	9.00 am Seminars, 2.00 pm practicals/tutorials.			
This module serves to introduce distinct ways of studying the origins of mind within a comparative Tinbergian framework, emphasising both functional and mechanistic accounts; why capacities exist, how they are implemented, how they evolved and how they develop. Lectures will cover general evolutionary theory and: (1) Comparative/Phylogenetic, (2) Developmental, (3) Mechanistic/causal, and (4) Functional/adaptive approaches. 'Hot' research topics will be presented using particulars of these frameworks and will exemplify the spectrum of methods possible to address the origins of mind.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Co-requisite(s):	PS5005, PS5011, PS5012, PS5013			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: Seminar and tutorial/practical each week.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr C Hobaiter			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr C Hobaiter & Dr G Brown			

PS5011 Empirical Approaches to the Evolution of Communication				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
This module will explore the evolution of human language and animal communication through the comparative study of communication and cognition in humans and a variety of non-human species. The module will include detailed analysis of multiple empirical approaches used in cutting-edge research in both field and laboratory. The module integrates evolutionary theory, behavioural ecology, ethology, linguistics and psychological theory to account for how and why humans and other species have evolved their unique communication skills. An important focus will be on empirical methods of testing various theories proposed for the evolution of communication and language.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Co-requisite(s):	PS5005, PS5010, PS5012, PS5013			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 10 x 3-hour sessions including seminars, tutorials and practicals over the semester.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof K Zuberbühler			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof K Zuberbühler			

Optional modules Semester 1:

PS4085 Evolution and Development of Social and Technical Intelligence				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 10	Semester:	1
Availability restrictions:	Available only to undergraduate students in the second year of the Honours Programme. Also available to postgraduate students on MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind			
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Fri			
The last two decades have witnessed a surge of research on social and technical intelligence, both in humans and an increasingly wide range of non-human animal species. This module surveys the principal discoveries, integrating field and captive studies, as well as both observational and experimental methodologies, to trace the evolution and development of aspects of social intelligence such as imitation and theory of mind, and technical intelligence, such as tool use and understanding of causality. Key aims include appreciating the range of methodologies that have been developed and how these can be used to trace the evolution and ontogeny of the underlying psychological mechanisms.				
Programme module type:	Optional for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminars plus office hour.			
Assessment pattern:	Take Home Written Examination = 75%, Coursework = 25%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr C Cross			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr C Cross			

Compulsory modules Semester 2:

PS5005 Methods of Data Analysis in Psychology				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	12.00 noon Mon			
This module aims to ensure that students are competent in the use of advanced data analysis in psychology. This includes advanced training in common statistics (including regression, analysis of variance and multivariate techniques) plus additional training in qualitative methods. Students will also study more complex topics such as statistical modeling.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Psychology			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 11 x 3-hour workshops plus optional tutorials.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr E Bowman			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr E Bowman, Dr R Spence, Dr S Pehrson and Professor S Reicher			

PS5012 Origins of Human Cognition				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	9.00 am seminars, 2.00 pm practicals/tutorials.			
<p>This module focuses on the origins of human cognition from evolutionary and developmental perspectives. How do we come to parse the 'blooming buzzing confusion' of cues from our physical and social environments into meaningful representations that support functionally adaptive behaviour? In the physical world are objects, their properties and the causal underpinnings of their interactions. The social world contains agents, their actions, and their mental states. How does cognitive processing reveal cues and build representations about the causal structure of the physical and social world? This course examines how these features are perceived and processed by developing humans and other animals for adaptive behaviour, and investigates the evidence for the proximate mechanisms underlying the abilities seen. The module links together the evolution and development of different cognitive abilities with a focus on empirical comparative research.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Co-requisite(s):	PS5005, PS5010, PS5011, PS5013			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminars, 1.5- hour tutorials and practicals.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr A Seed			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr A Seed			

Optional modules Semester 2:

PS4086 Origins and Evolution of Mind Reading (Theory of Mind)				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	9.00 am - 11.00 am Fri			
<p>The module will offer a comparative approach to the emergence of the ability to understand mental states in children and non-human primates, and its alteration in autism. This ability (also known as Theory of Mind) is at the heart of many of humans unique cognitive achievements, but their origins can be traced back in evolution and development. The course will discuss the current state of research in this area, emphasising both empirical and conceptual aspects posed by the combination of the evolutionary and developmental approaches.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminars plus office hour.			
Assessment pattern:	2-hour Written Examination = 75%, Coursework = 25%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr J-C Gomez			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr J-C Gomez			

PS4096 Mechanisms of Behaviour: integrating psychological and neuroscience perspectives				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	12.00 noon - 2.00 pm Tue			
<p>The aim of this module is to explore some of the many physiological and neural systems that modulate patterns of behaviour in a range of species, including humans. It will highlight the importance of integrating information from psychology and neuroscience disciplines in order to further our understanding of how and why animals and humans behave the way they do in different situations. The module will deal with examples of mechanisms across different levels of complexity (from genes to physiology). The module will include lectures and student presentations/journal club discussions based around current research articles in the field and a practical session with hands on experience of a physiological technique.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour lecture (x 10 weeks), 1 practical class (x 4 weeks) plus office hour.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework (including presentation) = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr K Spencer			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr K Spencer			

Optional module Whole Year:

PS5003 Generic Research and Professional Skills in Psychology				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
This module introduces students to the various skills and issues that are of importance to academic psychologists irrespective of their particular area of research. Weekly seminars will cover the various topics, such as academic presentations (published writing, talks, posters), the use of technology in order to enhance communication, how to read research reports, how to gain ethical approval for research, and how to build an academic career.				
Programme module type:	Optional for MSc - Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 17 x 2-hour seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	4 elements of Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	TBC			

Compulsory module Summer:

PS5013 Research Project				
SCOTCAT Credits:	60	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Summer
Planned timetable:	Not applicable.			
This aim of this module is to acquire research skills within the domain of evolutionary psychology. Students will conduct and report a research project from an evolutionary perspective. Projects may comprise field and/or laboratory-based studies, the analysis (including meta-analysis) of extant data, or the critical review and evaluation of existing literature. Students will need to demonstrate substantive contribution to the project and that the work is original. The thesis can be in any area of evolutionary psychology agreed by the student's supervisor and course coordinator, and approved by ethical review.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Co-requisite(s):	PS5005, PS5010, PS5011, PS5012			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: Not applicable.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	TBC			

