

Call for Papers for doctoral students or early postdocs:

Minds of Animals: Reflections on the Human – non-Human Continuum

An international workshop at the University of Bern, September 27-28, 2016

The field of human-animal studies is an emerging multidisciplinary research area that involves the study of the interactions and relationships between human and non-human animals. This workshop will explore the current state of knowledge with a specific focus on a line of research that is shared between humans and non-human animals, cognition. The workshop will provide a forum for innovation and collaboration in regards to the manner in which we approach human and animal research topics, including the way research questions are framed, and the design of studies and investigative methods. Specific questions which we hope to address during the workshop include: 1) To what degree do traits commonly attributed to humans (e.g., co-operation, empathy) have their roots in the social behaviour of primates and other animals?; 2) For which areas of human cognition can we assume that basic cognitive abilities which are shared with other species are relevant?; 3) What are the limits of explaining complex human behaviour with basic components such as neurological mechanisms?; and 4) Are apes sufficiently similar to humans such that an anthropomorphic view of their behaviour is justified?

The conference will include programmes aimed at both specialized and broader audiences and specifically aims to include opportunities for doctoral students and postdocs to discuss their work in progress with senior scholars. Confirmed speakers include Roland Borgards (Würzburg), Joseph Call (St Andrews), Susan Healy (St Andrews), Carel von Schaik (Zurich), Marianne Sommer (Lucerne), Frans de Waal (Emory), Andrew Whiten (St Andrews).

We invite submissions from fields including, but not limited to, anthropology, philosophy, biology, primatology, cultural studies, and psychology.

Please submit a one-page abstract of your research project and a full CV. All submissions will undergo peer review. Manuscripts can be submitted electronically to Sara Bloch: bloch.sara@cg.unibe.ch. The deadline for submissions is **May 13, 2016**.

Selected candidates will be invited to give a 15-minute presentation followed by questions. The conference language is English. We have limited funds available for travel.

Notice of acceptance or rejection will be announced by June 15, 2016. For questions or further information please contact Sara Bloch.

University of Bern Organising committee:

Dr. Jeremy D. Bailoo, Veterinary Public Health Institute
Dr. Nicole Bender, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine
Prof. Dr. Trix Cacchione, Institute of Psychology
Mira Shah, Institute for German Languages and Literatures
Prof. Dr. Michael Taborsky, Institute of Ecology and Evolution
Sara Bloch, Collegium generale, Coordination