

Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences



PSY2060

Animal Cognition

[30h] 3 credits

Teacher(s): Monique Soffie, René Zayan
Language: French
Level: Second cycle

Aims

- to present the animal models of cognitive functioning allowing the study of its neurophysiological bases, its individual development, its phylogeny and its pathology.
- to discuss the methodological aspects of the research in this field.

Main themes

- Representation of time and space: presentation of the psychobiological models related to the spatiotemporal processes and to the various brain structures implied. The different stages of these treatments (gathering of information, memorization, anticipation, decision-making) will be analysed through the presentation of current experiments realized on Primates and Rodents. The data about counting and numerical processes in animal will be discussed, as the hypothesis of a link between the neurobiological mechanisms implied in counting and those implied in the management of time has often been proposed.
- Social cognition : presentation of the late data obtained through experimental research in compared psychology and through the observation of social behaviours. Mental representations in upper Vertebrates: social and individual recognition, auto-recognition in a mirror, representation of hierarchy and other social relations. Discussion about the modes of social intelligence in situations of competition/cooperation and of conflict resolution (inference of hierarchical transitivity, social manipulation, faking, etc.)

Content and teaching methods

- to present the animal models of cognitive functioning allowing the study of its neurophysiological bases, its individual development, its phylogeny and its pathology.
- to discuss the methodological aspects of the research in this field.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

The content of the course could change each year

Other credits in programs

ISP22	Deuxième licence en philosophie	(3 credits)
PSY2	Licence en sciences psychologiques	(3 credits)