

Masters in Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: The Origins of Mind

MSc:

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

30 credits: PS4085, PS4086, 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:	10.00 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 or 2
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: 2-hour seminars, tutorials and practicals.			
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:	5 elements of Coursework = 100% (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL)			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr E Bowman			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr E Bowman and Dr N Tausch			

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PS5011 Empirical Approaches to the Evolution of Communication				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1 or 2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>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.</p>				
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: 2-hour seminars, tutorials and practicals.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof K Zuberbühler			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof K Zuberbühler			

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 module Semester 2:

SS5102 Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Academic year:	2015/6			
Planned timetable:	2.00 - 4.00 pm Wed			
This seminar based module will introduce you to the basic theoretical approaches in the social sciences, encourage you to make connections between the methodological and epistemological issues involved in conducting social scientific research, and inspire you to reflect critically your own experience. The module will cover modern philosophy's historical evolution, positivism, feminism, critical theory and post-structuralism among other topics. Assessment will involve a one short review and one longer essay.				
Programme module type:	Optional for MRes in Psychology			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr S Leahy			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr V Paipais and various others			

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:	Dr E Bowman			

Optional modules Whole Year:

PS5003 Generic Research and Professional Skills in Psychology				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>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.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Psychology.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 17 x 2-hour seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	4 elements of Coursework = 100% (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL)			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr W Li			

PS5021 Methodologies for Psychology and Neuroscience				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>The primary aim of this module would be that the student gains some practical, hands-on experience, albeit rather briefly, of a number of laboratory techniques and of research methodologies as are employed by the Principal Investigators in the School of Psychology and Neuroscience. Across the course the student would experience a wide variety of methods and research practices and thereby become more aware of the possibilities of an integrative approach. The course would entail one weekly session (approx. 5 hours per week) during which the student would spend a session in the laboratory of a PI (Principal Investigator). This module would cover the research design, data collection, data analysis and the publication style of each PI. The PI would demonstrate the methodology, data collection and data analysis relevant to that laboratory and to the field in which the PI works. This may include an introductory lecture or discussion of literature relevant to the PI's field and would be followed by observation of, and basic training in the specific techniques used by the PI in conducting that research. The student would be involved in any data collection that may take place during that session, be made aware of the way in which those data are analysed by that PI's group and then shown how those results are prepared for publication and other dissemination.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for MRes Psychology Programme.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 5 hours each week for 5 weeks.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr K Spencer			

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PS5031 Review				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>This supervised review will compare and contrast different theoretical and methodological approaches to a particular topic in the study of the mind. The aim of this module is to encourage students to gain a clear picture as to what is unique about an evolutionary approach to the study of the mind, how it differs from other psychological approaches, and to gain an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of such an approach. Suitable topics for review will be chosen by agreement with the student's supervisor and the Course Controller.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Co-requisite(s):	PS5005, PS5010, PS5011, PS5012, PS5013			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 4 tutorials across the semester.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr E Bowman			