ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders
Scientific Committee

MARTIN Brüne

Martin Brüne is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Bochum and director of the Research in Cognitive Neuropsychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry at the Ruhr-University in Bochum. He completed training in neurology in 1993 and in psychiatry in 1995, and subsequent training included a visiting research fellowship at “Centre of Mind”, Australia.

His main research interests concern various aspects of social cognition, in particular in schizophrenia and other psychoses. He co-edited the book “The social brain: Evolution and pathology” in 2003, and current research includes analyses of the association of social cognition with social function, nonverbal behaviour, insight, and social prognosis in psychosis. He is also involved in cross-cultural research on delusions.

Brüne also has longstanding interest in the evolutionary aspects of psychiatric disorders, and he is the author of the recent “Textbook of evolutionary psychiatry”, published by OUP in 2009.

JASON Mattingley

Professor Jason Mattingley was appointed as Foundation Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Queensland in January 2007. This is a joint appointment between the Queensland Brain Institute and the School of Psychology, the aim of which is to foster the development of research and teaching links between the disciplines of neuroscience and cognitive science.

Before moving to QBI Mattingley was Director of the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory within the School of Behavioural Science at the University of Melbourne (2000–2006). Before that he was a Senior Research Fellow at Monash University (1997–1999), and an NHMRC Neil Hamilton Fairley Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK (1994–1997). During his period in Cambridge, Mattingley was a Fellow of King’s College. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 2007.

Mattingley’s research is directed toward understanding the neural and cognitive mechanisms that underlie selective attention. Attentional processes enable an organism to prioritise sensory inputs, cognitive operations, and motor responses in the service of goal directed behaviour.

Mattingley’s research has important implications for a number of real-world endeavours, including the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with attention deficits due to brain disease; the design of more efficient systems for conveying information to human operators; and in helping to predict preference and choice in consumer behaviour.
YUKIO Otsu

Yukio Otsu is a Professor at the Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies at Keio University where he has been actively engaged in various activities in cognitive science. After finishing his PhD at MIT in 1981 he starting teaching at Tokyo Gakugei University before moving to Keio University in 1987.

Throughout his career, Otsu's research interest has been to address the so-called Plato's problem in language acquisition: "how can we gain a rich linguistic system given our fragmentary and impoverished experienced". He is well known for his innovative research in addressing this question. By conducting many experiments with young children, he has shown that they have knowledge of various syntactic principles which are abstract and unlikely to be learned from experience. Moreover, he has also been very influential in encouraging young researchers to conduct original attempts in addressing Plato's problem. In this way, he has initiated and developed an enterprise of approaching Plato's problem in language acquisition.

Otsu has devoted much time and energy to administering workshops, symposia and conferences. Since 2000 he has been the director of the annual Tokyo Conference on Psycholinguistics and is also the editor of the annual proceedings. Otsu has served on the editorial boards of many professional journals and series, including The Linguistic Review, Language Acquisition, Second Language Research, Revista di Linguistica, Journal of East Asian Linguistics, Studies in Theoretical Psycholinguistics and English Linguistics. In addition, he has also served as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

DANIEL Schacter

Dan Schacter is a Professor and Chair of Harvard University's Department of Psychology, where his research interests centre on cognitive and neuropsychological analyses of memory, amnesia, and consciousness, with particular emphasis on the distinction between implicit and explicit memory, and more recently on brain mechanisms of memory distortion. He also is interested in applying basic research findings concerning memory to everyday life. Schacter is the author of two books: Stranger Behind the Engram: Theories of Memory and the Psychology of Science (1982) and Searching for Memory: The Brain, the Mind, and the Past (1996). His book Searching for Memory was listed as one of the New York Times Book Review's Notable Books of the Year in 1996 and won the American Psychological Association's William James Book Award in 1997. He has published in many journals as well, including the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology, Neurology, Nature, and Scientific American. Schacter is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the recent recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship.

Schacter has served as a professor of psychology at Harvard since 1991. Prior to this position, he taught at the University of Arizona from 1987 to 1991 and at the University of Toronto from 1981 to 1987.

Schacter earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1974 and earned both his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Toronto in 1977 and 1981 respectively. He also was a visiting researcher in 1978 at Oxford University's Department of Experimental Psychology.
OVID Tzeng

Ovid Tzeng is currently the Minister for the Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA), and was previously the Minister without portfolio for the Government of Taiwan. He was also the former Vice President of Academia Sinica, the national research academy of Taiwan.

Tzeng received his PhD from Pennsylvania State University in 1973. He is a professor at the National Yang-Ming University and a Fellow of the Academia Sinica. His fields of professional interest are cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics, neuropsychology, and neurolinguistics. He has gained particular recognition for his extensive analysis of reading behaviours across different writing systems, and he is a leading pioneer in the field of cognitive neuroscientific studies of Chinese language.

While working at Academia Sinica, Tzeng devoted himself to the research of cognitive neuroscientific studies of memory and language. During his tenure as the Vice President, he launched numerous programs to promote the interaction between Academia Sinica and International Council of Science Union (ICSU). He also represented Academia Sinica in the Human Network of National Academy. In February 2004 he was elected as a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and in 2006 he was elected to the Committee of Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science (CFRS). Recently he was invited to the panel of the European Research Council to review Advanced Grant proposals, particularly those concerned with the human mind and its complexity.