Keynote Speakers

Dr Andy Calder  
MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit  
University of Cambridge

Dr Calder’s is interested in all aspects of face perception, but particularly the neural mechanisms underlying the perception of facial expressions and other social cues (e.g. eye gaze). A second aspect of his research addresses the neural basis of emotional systems, including anger, disgust, and reward mechanisms. He is particularly interested in how these systems are modulated by individual differences. The research uses a variety of techniques, including patient-based studies, functional imaging, and investigations of healthy volunteers.

Professor Facundo Manes  
Institute of Cognitive Neurology (INECO)  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Professor Manes’ research interest is in the neurobiology of the mind, specifically the understanding of the role of the prefrontal cortex and emotion in human decision-making and social cognition, the cognitive reserve in patients with disorders of consciousness and the cognitive and behavioural aspects of different psychiatric and neurological conditions.

Dr Ryan McKay  
Department of Psychology  
Royal Holloway, University of London

Dr McKay is interested in delusions, self-deception, religion and morality. He is currently working on a large international project called "Ritual, Community & Conflict" (see http://www.cam.ox.ac.uk/ritual/). Rituals are a powerful means of forming, inspiring, and coordinating groups. They are trying to identify the key elements of ritual that are effective in generating intense ingroup cohesion and outgroup hostility.
Professor Kate Nation
Department of Experimental Psychology
University of Oxford

Professor Nation’s research is concerned with language and literacy development, both in normal and atypical development. One strand of work is investigating individual differences in the temporal dynamics of language comprehension using sensitive measures (such as eye-tracking and priming) that tap comprehension processes as they happen in real-time. Secondly, she is interested in the development of semantic memory, and how children with developmental disorders (e.g. language impairment, autism) may organise and use meaning-related information differently to normally-developing children. Thirdly, she also has an interest in reading and spelling development.

Professor Mabel Rice
Language Acquisition Studies Lab
University of Kansas

Mabel Rice is an international authority on language disorders in children and the genetics of language acquisition. At the University of Kansas, she directs the Child Language Doctoral Program, one of the first interdisciplinary programs in the country to train child-language specialists. She also directs the Merrill Advanced Studies Center and the Biobehavioral Neurosciences in Communications Disorders Center.

The Language Acquisition Studies Lab is an active research lab where students address fundamental questions about young children’s language acquisition and language impairments.