



## Social Interactions Debate:

# *The Meaning of Mirror Neurons*

**Date:** 25th October from 12:00 - 17:30

**Venue:** Senate Room, Gilbert Scott Building, University of Glasgow

Ever since the discovery of mirror neurons in monkeys, which were found to activate during action control as well as during action observation, it has been debated if and how their existence and function translates to humans. Large parts of research and discussion have been devoted to the identification and measurement of actual mirror neurons, a mirror system, or a mirror mechanism in humans. While these discussions are of course important, here we aim at discussing the wider implications of such a capacity, assuming that it exists in some form or another. We therefore dedicate this debate to "*The Meaning of Mirror Neurons*" and we aim at discussing their potential role in development, evolution, mental simulation, social interaction and theory of mind.

### Questions:

- What role do they play in evolution & development?
- What role do they play in joint action & social interaction?
- Are they involved in every kind of mental simulation?
- How do they affect empathy, mentalizing and theory of mind?

**Registration link:** [www.ccnigla.ac.uk/registration](http://www.ccnigla.ac.uk/registration)  
(Register your interest as spaces are limited)

**Enquiries:** [Claire.Grant@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Claire.Grant@glasgow.ac.uk)



[www.socialinteraction.gla.ac.uk/](http://www.socialinteraction.gla.ac.uk/)  
The Social Interactions Project is a scientific research programme investigating the psychology of first impressions and their consequences.



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The CCNI represents an interdisciplinary effort to advance the understanding of the complex relationship between the brain, cognition and behaviour at multiple levels of analysis.



## Social Interactions Debate Schedule

12:00-12:50	<b>Registration and Welcome Lunch</b>
12:50-13:00	<b>Welcome from co-ordinators, Simon Garrod and Klaus Kessler</b> (Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology, University of Glasgow)
13:00-13:30	<b>Harold Bekkering</b> (Donders Institute, Radboud University Nijmegen)
13:30-14:00	<b>Geoff Bird</b> (Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London)
14:00-14:30	<b>Vittorio Gallese</b> (Department of Neurosciences, Universita Degli Studi Di Parma)
14:30-15:00	<b>Natalie Sebanz</b> (Donders Institute, Radboud University Nijmegen)
15:00-15:30	<b>Tea/Coffee break</b>
15:30-17:30	<b>Debate</b>
17:30	<b>Buffet reception</b>

**Moderator:** David Perrett  
(School of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of St Andrews)

**Scientific co-ordinators:** Simon Garrod and Klaus Kessler  
(Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology, University of Glasgow)



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