**Male chimpanzees communicate to mediate competition and cooperation during feeding**

Alice Bouchard

Institute of Biology, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland

An ongoing debate in animal cognition is whether food calls function to cooperatively inform others or provide the caller with competitive advantages. When feeding, chimpanzees produce two types of calls in feeding context: context-specific, close-range ‘rough grunts’ and context-general, long-range ‘pant hoots’. We investigated this dual signalling behaviour by males who were either actively joining others or passively being joined in food trees, considering the effect of both social (i.e., party size and composition) and ecological (i.e., type of food) variables. For arriving individuals, we found that pant hoot production was best explained by the absence of socially important individuals (i.e., social bond partners and high-ranking males), suggesting that callers were cooperatively informing them about food availability, probably to strengthen social relationships. In contrast, rough grunts were mostly produced by low-ranking individuals, suggesting they were part of competitive interactions to avoid aggression. For individuals already in the tree, we found that both rough grunt and pant hoot production was most common in low-ranking individuals reacting to the arrival of high-ranking males. We discuss these patterns and conclude that, when individuals join a food tree, chimpanzee vocal behaviour functions to mediate both cooperative and competitive interactions.