



Psychology Research Seminar Programme

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES | UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

17th April 2014

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Host: Professor Phyllis Lee



Evolved differences:

The social ecology and genetics of primate personality

Abstract

Within species, individuals show marked variation in behavioural dispositions, cognition, and affect. In psychology these individual differences are well established, but other animals show them as well. Where does this variation come from? Comparative approaches allow us to start to understand why we humans have the behavioural trait differences that we do. Looking across the primate lineage, we can begin to test whether any features of social style are related to the presence or absence of specific personality domains. Zooming in to the individual level, we find that genetic variation contributes to differences in behaviour, from basic motor preferences like handedness to the assemblages of traits that compose personality and mental well-being. Finally, I will discuss the prospects for using population and epidemiological samples to ask questions about the evolution and ecology of human personality.

Seminars are free of charge and held on

Thursdays @ 4:00 pm Room 3A94

Refreshments are served upon arrival * All are welcome

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/natural-sciences/research/researchseminars/psychology/springseminars/>