

We are pleased to announce the symposium:

"How to Study Personality Differences in Primates"

Individual differences that are commonly construed as personality differences are increasingly studied in prosimians, old and new world monkeys, and apes. Primatologists thereby focus on the psychobiological mechanisms, ontogenetic processes, adaptive advantages, and phylogenetic origins of individual differences within and between species. Yet meta-theoretical and methodological foundations of their primary empirical investigation are still not well established. What do we understand by personality differences at all? What methods are suitable to study them empirically in nonhuman primates? And how can personality differences be analyzed statistically? This symposium provides an overview about basic meta-theoretical concepts of personality, and different methodological approaches and methods of measurement. Participants present a meta-analysis of methods of personality measurement used in primate studies. Ethological quantifications of personality differences are demonstrated in zoo populations of chimpanzees. The utility of observer ratings and their power to explain patterns of friendship are shown in captive rhesus macaques. A longitudinal study in zoo populations of gorillas demonstrates the utility of observer ratings of personality differences for captive management. Particularly illuminating, yet also methodologically challenging are personality studies on wild populations. A study in Japanese macaques demonstrates some of these challenges and discusses interesting opportunities to validate personality differences with life-history traits. We close with a presentation of factor analytic methods to statistically identify basic dimensions of individual differences in empirical data.

Our speakers are:

- Meta-theoretical and methodological foundations of primate personality research – An overview
Jana Uher (*Department of Psychology, Free University Berlin, Germany*)
- A review and meta-analysis of personality studies in non-human primates
Hani Freeman (*University of Texas at Austin, U.S.*)
- Chimpanzee personality assessed by an observational quantification of their behaviour in three zoos
Sonja Koski, Elisabeth Sterck, William McGrew (*University of Cambridge, U.K. and Utrecht University, The Netherlands*)
- Measuring individual differences in temperament and friendship in Rhesus monkeys
Tamara Weinstein (*Simpson College, Indianola, U.S.*)
- Longitudinal assessments of gorilla personality and their role in captive management
Tara Stoinski, Christopher Kuhar, Kristen Lukas, Bonnie Perdue, Ken Gold (*Conservation Partnerships Zoo Atlanta and Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, U.S.*)
- Validating personality with life-history traits
Mark James Adams (*Department of Psychology, The University of Edinburgh, U.K.*)
- Factor analytic techniques for disentangling primate personality and rater perceptions
Alexander Weiss (*Department of Psychology, The University of Edinburgh, U.K.*)

Jana Uher & Alex Weiss.
(Symposium convenors)

Jana Uher
Department of Psychology
Free University Berlin
Differential and Personality Psychology,
Psychological Assessment and Intervention
Habelschwerdter Allee 45, JK25/121b
14195 Berlin, Germany
jana.uher@fu-berlin.de

Alexander Weiss
School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language
Sciences
Department of Psychology
The University of Edinburgh
7 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9JZ, United Kingdom
alex.weiss@ed.ac.uk

