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# **Personality in the Great Apes**

**– Methods and Approaches –**

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Diploma Thesis

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## Abstract

Individuals of the four great ape species (*Pan paniscus*, *Pan troglodytes*, *Gorilla gorilla*, *Pongo pygmaeus*) were studied for continuous and consistent norm-variants of behaviour. Molecular behavioural data were obtained in a battery of 14 laboratory situations and in observations of free behaviour situations in the Ss social groups. Additionally, ratings on 34 behaviour-descriptive and 17 inferential items were obtained from 4-5 acquainted keepers per S. Data collection was repeated completely after a time-out of 2 weeks within a 50 day period. The three methods resulted in reliable, temporally stable individual profiles, and show notable coherences that establish nomologic networks around each trait construct. Discussion focuses on construct validation and implications on the adoptability of the compared methods to animal investigations.

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