

2013 年 12 月 14 日、15 日にマカオ大学で"Natural Cognition- Logic, Evolution, Organisms- というシンポジウムが開かれ、世界 8 カ国から 13 人の講演者が招待されました。日本からは私だけでしたが、共感が Natural Cognition のひとつであり、人間の高度に発達した共感もその進化的起源を動物に求めることができるという内容の講演をしました。シンポジウムの趣旨は下記のごとくです。

Contemporary research on comparative cognition tends to support Charles Darwin's claim that the difference between human and non-human minds is "one of degree and not of kind". This hypothesis is still controversial, however, and the question of how and why human cognitive competences may differ from those of other animals does not concern only comparative cognition, but a host of different fields as well. On the other hand, the very lack of an all- embracing definition of cognition involves the intervention of philosophy in monitoring the discussion. The aim of this conference is to promote an interdisciplinary discussion on the foundations of an evolutionary approach to cognition, bringing together scholars working in biology, logic, cognitive psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and philosophy.

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