

MIND MEETING

Seminar Series

2022

All welcome!
Attendance is free

7 April

11 am CET online talk via Zoom

please contact psy-office@cbs.mpg.de for login details

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Comparative Cultural Psychology - evolving a research program

One of the most striking characteristics of human behavior in contrast to all other animal is that we show extraordinary variability across populations. Human cultural diversity is a biological oddity. More specifically, I propose that what makes humans unique is the nature of the individual ontogenetic process, that, amongst other things, results in this unparalleled cultural diversity. Hence, our central question is: How is human ontogeny adapted to cultural diversity and how does it contribute to it? This question is critical, because cultural diversity does not only entail our predominant mode of adaptation to local ecologies, but is key in the construction of our cognitive architecture. The colors we see, the tones that we hear, the memories we form, are all the consequence of an interaction between our emerging cognitive system and our lived experiences. I will present several ongoing research- and methods development projects that combine developmental, cross-cultural and comparative studies, aiming to develop an integrative account of uniquely human cultural diversity and its universal developmental roots.

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