

Press information

Speaker Biographies



John David Smith

Professor, the State University of New York at Buffalo, USA

Since 1991 David Smith has been a professor at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, where he is also a member of the Center for Cognitive Science. With his colleagues, David inaugurated a new area of inquiry in comparative psychological research, demonstrating that some nonhuman animals have capacities for uncertainty monitoring and mental-state awareness that have strong parallels to those in humans. His current research in this area is funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. David also has strong research interests in the cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience of human and animal category learning. His current research in this area is funded by the National Institutes of Health. David has also been funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration to study the threat-recognition problem that X-ray screeners at airports face, and to analyze why the identification of threat items in baggage remains a difficult perceptual problem. Prior to his current role, he was a professor of psychology at the Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research. He received his PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1982, where he attended graduate school as a Danforth Foundation fellow. He received his BA in Anthropology from Yale University and his MS Ed from the Bank Street College of Education. David also served in the Teacher Corps for two years from 1975, teaching pre-kindergarten, fourth grade, and sixth-grade science at a public school in Manhattan's Spanish Harlem.



Josef Perner

Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Salzburg, Austria

Josef Perner received his PhD in Psychology from the University of Toronto. He was Professor in Experimental Psychology at the University of Sussex and is now Professor of Psychology and member of the Centre for Neurocognitive Research at the University of Salzburg. He is author of "Understanding the Representational Mind" (MIT Press, 1991) and over 150 articles on cognitive development (theory of mind, executive control, episodic memory, logical reasoning), consciousness (perception versus action), simulation in decision making, and theoretical issues of

mental representation and consciousness. He served as President of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, is a Fellow of the British Academy, the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, the Association for Psychological Sciences, and Member of the Academia Europaea.



Joëlle Proust

**Director of Research, French National Research Centre (CNRS),
Institut Jean-Nicod, Paris, France**

Joëlle Proust joined the French National Research Centre (CNRS) in 1976 as a researcher focusing on the history and philosophy of logic. Her comparative history of logical truth won her the CNRS bronze medal in 1987 (Questions of Form, Minnesota Press, 1989). Her studies progressed from 1990 to address the question of how to naturalize representational capacity. She has since studied action awareness, its impairments in schizophrenia, and the structure of mental agency. Proust assembled an interdisciplinary seven-team

European Science Foundation European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) project in 2006 which over three years explored the evolutionary development, history and developmental origins of metacognition and its relations with consciousness. Building on this work, he has recently been awarded a senior grant by the European Research Council to study the sensitivity of Western and Eastern children and adults to the norms used in evaluating one's cognitive contents: intelligibility, truth, coherence, relevance and consensus. She is a founding member of scientific societies such as the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), the European Society for Analytic Philosophy (ESAP), the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP) and the Society for Analytic Philosophy in the French language (SOPHA) of which she was president from 2000 to 2003.

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