

SYMPOSIUM ON
Cognition, computation and consciousness

Monday 20 September 2010

Welcome on behalf of Royal Society by Professor Jean Thomas FRS, Biological Secretary of the Royal Society

Session 1- Comparative cognition

Chair - Professor Tim Shallice FRS, Cognitive Neuroscience Sector, Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA), Trieste, Italy

10.30 Is the human brain special?
Professor Pasko Rakic, Kavli Institute of Neuroscience and Yale University, USA

11.00 Is human cognition special?
Professor Nicky Clayton FRS, University of Cambridge, UK

11.30 The genetic basis of cognition
Professor Robert Plomin, King's College London, UK

12.30 The evolution of human culture
Sir Paul Mellars, University of Cambridge, UK

13.00 – 13.30 Discussion

13.30 Lunch

Session 2 - Machinery of cognition

Chair - Professor Anya Hurlbert (Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University)

14.30 The computational machinery of the cortex
Professor Henry Markram, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

15.00 How does the brain make decisions?
Professor Michael Shadlen, University of Washington School of Medicine, USA

15.30 Tea and coffee break

16.00 The mechanisms of memory
Professor Richard Morris CBE FRS, University of Edinburgh and Wellcome Trust, UK

16.30 Functional specificity in the human brain
Professor Nancy Kanwisher, McGovern Institute, MIT, USA

17.00 Discussion

17.30 Opportunity for small group intensive discussions to continue

18.30 Drinks reception

19.00 Gala Dinner

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Session 3 - Is consciousness important?

Chair - Professor Joëlle Proust, Institut Jean Nicod, France

8.45 Coffee

9.30 What is an intention?
Professor Patrick Haggard, (Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience and Department of Psychology, UCL, UK

10.00 Emotion and cognition
Professor Luiz Pessoa, Indiana University, USA

10.30 A perspective on the problem of consciousness
Professor Michael Gazzaniga, University of California, USA

11:00 Coffee

11.30 Is consciousness really explained?
Professor Ned Block, New York University, USA

12.00 Discussion

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Discussion

15.00 Tea and coffee
Meeting closes