



## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS SEMINAR

### CICASP Seminar in Science Communication #157

*Part 1 of International Primatology Lectures on Past, Present and Future Perspectives of the Field*

#### **Learning to become a monkey and other lessons for becoming a primatologist by Michael A. Huffman (Kyoto University Primate Research Institute)**

5:00PM–6PM, Wednesday, May 19, 2021 (on Zoom)

How does one become a monkey? Or short of that, a primatologist, at least? Dr. Michael Huffman delved into his life and work to help us get a better idea on how to approach this question. As a young boy he was inspired by the book ‘Adventures of Curious George’ and worked hard to achieve his goals of working with monkeys, taking any opportunity he could - volunteering at the Denver Zoo and at the Caribbean Island of St. Kitts. Coming to Japan solidified his choice in career where he met his mentors Prof. Shimuzu, Prof. Kawai and Prof. Itani. This was an important step in his journey as he began his next phase by studying Japanese macaques at Arashiyama Monkey Park Iwatayama and planning for his return to Japan as a graduate student. He soon started with his project on female mate choice and later achieved his lifelong aspiration of going to Africa and living among chimpanzees. These are just a few things Prof. Mike accomplished in completing in his journey to become a monkey. He has collaborated with researchers around the world and helped those with their passions for primates achieve their dreams.

Dr. Mike gave us a great overview of his journey, with great advice for aspiring primatologists and tips and tricks to be a part of the monkey business. Join us for the next in our series *International Primatology Lectures on Past, Present and Future Perspectives of the Field* to continue the journey with Dr. Vernon Reynolds!

## OUTLINE OF UPCOMING SEMINAR

### CICASP Seminar in Science Communication #158

*PRI's Most Misunderstood Fields*

5PM–6PM, Wednesday, June 23, 2021

**To be held on Zoom (see email announcements for access details)**

*“Public confusion is one thing, but some subjects provoke quizzical and sometimes dismissive frowns even among colleagues from different departments.”*

- Kim Cornish, May 27, 2021

Have you ever had a conversation with somebody about your work when it was clear that they had absolutely no idea what you do or even what you were talking about? Are your parents still running around telling everybody that you’re obsessed with monkeys or that you are training to become a zookeeper? Do people ever look at you and think, Indiana Jones or Alan Grant (Jurassic Park), or Jane Goodall? Or maybe they imagine you as a crazy-haired lab-coated evil genius darting around in a lab full of bubbling cocktails and electrical conductors?

If any of this sounds familiar, then you’re in the right place! In the next CICASP Seminar in Science Communication, we’re going to be discussing the common misconceptions about



our fields, whether they come from the public or even from our neighbors in the next department down the hall. In addition to some roundtable discussion about stereotypes we'll attempt some myth-busting and re-education strategies to help the misinformed on their way.

Based on an article recently published in Times Higher Education (Paywall; attached), we'll explore the challenges we might face in effectively communicating what it is that we do while conveying our professional value in the process.

Please spend some time before the workshop thinking about (1) what is your academic field, anyway; and (2) what common misconceptions do people have about it, or what stereotypes, if any, exist within it?

We aim to have a good time with this one and learn along the way, so we look forward to seeing you at this CICASP SciCom Seminar!

Everyone from PRI/PWS/WRC are welcome to join us!

### **Suggested readings:**

Attached Document on 'Interdisciplinary Questions: The Academy's most Misunderstood Fields'

"世間の混乱は一つのことですが、一部のテーマは異分野の同僚の間でさえ、訝しげに、時には否定的に眉をひそめるようなものです。"

- キム・コーニッシュ、2021年5月27日

あなたの仕事について誰かと話をしたとき、相手があなたの仕事や話していることを全く知らないことがあったことはありますか？あなたの両親は、あなたがサルに夢中になっていることや、動物園の飼育員になるために訓練を受けていることなどを、今でも皆に話しているのでしょうか？人々はあなたを見て、インディ・ジョーンズやアラン・グラント（『ジュラシック・パーク』）、あるいはジェーン・グドールのように思うのでしょうか？それとも、泡立つ薬品や導電体でいっぱいの研究室をせかせか動き回る、白衣でボサボサ髪の邪悪な天才を想像するのでしょうか？

もし、これらに心当たりがあるなら、あなたはちょうどいいところにいるでしょう。今回の CICASP Seminar in Science Communication では、一般の人や隣の学部の人からも聞かれる、私たちの分野に関するよくある誤解について議論します。ステレオタイプについての座談会に加えて、誤解されている人々を助けるために、神話を打ち砕き、再教育する戦略を試みます。

また、Times Higher Education に最近掲載された記事（有料）をもとに、自分の仕事内容を効果的に伝え、その過程で自分の専門的な価値を伝えるために直面する可能性のある課題を探っていきます。

ワークショップの前に、(1)自分の専門分野は何か、(2)その分野について人々はどのような誤解をしているのか、またそれにはどのようなステレオタイプがあるのか、について考えてみてください。

今回の CICASP SciCom Seminar では、楽しく学びながら進めていきたいと思っておりますので、皆様のご参加をお待ちしております。