

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

	2017.09.25
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1. Country/location of visit
Primate Research Institute, Inuyama, Aichi, Japan
2. Research project
Comparative cognitive science course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017.09.05 – 2017. 09.07 (3 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Masaki Tomonaga, Dr. Yuko Hattori, Dr. Ikuma Adachi,
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>During the three days, I observed the facilities and the experiments of Language and Intelligence Section. After this course, I have an overall idea of how to conduct cognitive experiment with chimpanzees and horses.</p> <p>I was surprised by how complex the tasks chimpanzees are taking in their daily life, and how well they can accomplish the tasks. One of the interesting tasks I saw is the rhythm test done by Hattori sensei, where the chimpanzees spontaneously move their body with tempo of the music. She found that the male chimpanzees are more responsive than the female, and the phenomenon is individual- and duration-dependent. Other experiment I remembered was Gao Jie’s paper-scissor-rock experiment, during which the chimpanzees have to choose the winning gesture in the touch screen. I think it will be interesting to play the game with chimpanzees in real life, but it seems paper-scissor-rock game indeed requires more than the knowledge of winning and losing but also the consensus on timing and so on. I also tried to do Hattori sensei’s sound localization experiment in the experiment chambers as the chimpanzees do. After I tried, I realized the task is not as easy as it seems.</p> <p>We also went visiting the experiment done by horses in afternoon of the first day. The horse and ponies were not as good as the chimpanzees, perhaps they need more practicing and there is cognitive difference between species. Through observing experiments of the horses, I grasped some difficulties researchers may encounter when experiments just started with new subjects. It may take a long time for the animals to understand our intention and it requires patience.</p> <p>Besides the experiment, we learned about the daily care of chimpanzees in PRI and the way the researchers do to enhance animal welfare here. For example, the chimpanzees were never forced to join the experiment but by their own</p>

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will. Also, the experiment schedule is designed based on the chimpanzees’ natural activity time like foraging activity. During the observation of ongoing experiments, I can distinguish several chimpanzee individuals, like Ai, Akira, Gon, Pandesa and Ayumu. Each chimpanzee has its own personality from the brief description I read. The researchers in PRI does not only care about the experiments but also try to get along with chimpanzees.



Fig 1. Touch-screen experiment

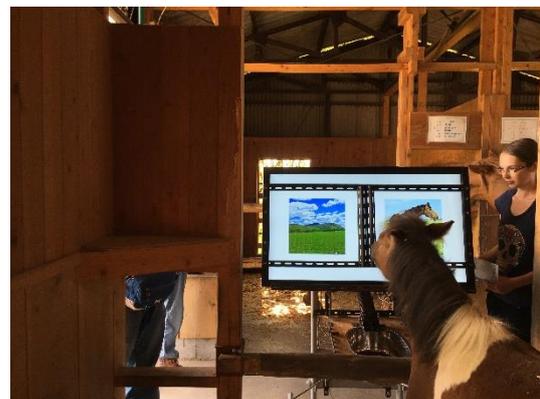


Fig 2. House’s cognitive experiment



Fig 3. Discussion with Dr. Tomonaga

6. Others

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Tomonaga, Dr. Hattori, Dr. Adachi for organizing the course.