

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

2018. 04, 15	
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D2
Name	Raquel Costa

1. Country/location of visit
Kyoto University (Yoshida Izumidono), Kyoto, Japan
2. Research project
Second Kyoto Workshop on Evolutionary Thanatology: “Death, Infants and Children”
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2018.03.30
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Jim Anderson, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University
5. Progress and results of your research/activity
<p>This session was held on March 30th 2018, organized by Prof. Jim Anderson of the Graduate School of Letters of Kyoto University, in collaboration with the Leading Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science.</p> <p>Thanatology is the study of death, aiming to uncover the physiological and psychological mechanisms of death or dying. For example, the social and cultural aspects of approaching death, such as how individuals react and grieve, is one of the featured science topics of the field. Following this reasoning, this year workshop was dedicated to the theme “Death, Infants and Children”.</p> <p>Several invited speakers addressed the issue using their own research on the topic, relating it to how young individuals (human and nonhuman) may perceive and react to death. Oral presentations included the evolutionary component of the field (André Gonçalves), the mother behavior responses to the death of their progeny (Claire Watson), how chimpanzee youngsters came to understand death (Jim Anderson), how human youngsters understand the irreversibility of dying (Shoji Itakura and Serina Yamamoto), the archeological findings of children burial practices in ancient Japanese prehistory (Oki Nakamura) and in the Palaeolithic Europe (Paul Pettitt), current studies of human children conceptualizations and responses to death (Sarah Longbottom and Virginia Slaughter) in</p>

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

both urban and rural areas (Sarah Longbottom) and the emotional perception of death itself (Sungeun Yang).

Although my research does not focus in such issues, I believe that thanatology may be transcendental to several behavioral sciences. In fact, studying living primates, it is only normal that I will witness how death may impact individuals’ behavior, which may affect my own data collection and study. Being prepared to record and analyze how individuals react to dying and how they treat the corpses may help me to deal with those situations at a scientific level. At a broader level, this is indeed a very interesting topic and recapped some evolutionary concepts that I had studied during my Master Course. It was also a good opportunity to meet and interact with experts of different fields and try to understand their approaches to their problems and challenges.



Fig. 1. Participants of the Second Kyoto Workshop on Evolutionary Thanatology: “Death, Infants and Children”, Yoshida Izumidono, Kyoto University.

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

I would like to thank the organization committee for another interesting event, especially Prof. Jim Anderson. I am also thankful to PWS for supporting this event.