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.)

	2019. September, 28
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M1
Name	Mikuho Yokoyama

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)

2019. April. 1 –

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Prof. Masaki Tomonaga, Primate Research Institute

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.

Comparative cognitive science is a field of cognitive study for human and non-human animals to search the evolution of our mind. Since this April, I have belonged Language and Intelligence section of PRI and studied this field targeting chimpanzee, which is the most closely related species to human. This course is conducted by participating in cognitive experiments for chimpanzees every day.

I participate in the experience every day and learn how to conduct cognitive experiments and handle chimpanzees. Experiments are conducted almost every day on weekday and separated into AM and PM parts. In each part, 3 or 4 chimpanzees come to the experimental booth. They do some tasks using touch panel, eye tracker, or real objects. Since we cannot communicate with them using words, which is one of the most different points from psychological experiments for humans, it is difficult to come up with proper tasks reflecting the intention of experimenters. However, this seems to be an interesting process for me because I can guess how mind of non-human animals is from reaction time or percentage of correct answers of tasks as a hint.

When we move chimpanzees from their living area to our booth, we call their name and wait for them to come. They are sometimes reluctant to come to the booth affected by behaviors of their group members. It is hard to handle them but exciting because we can observe their various interesting behaviors every day. I also learned I always have to pay attention because even small mistakes possibly cause serious accidents. I want to keep studying and training hard from now.

Fig 1. Cleo is doing a touch panel experiment.

Fig 2. Cleo is lying down on the floor.

6. Others

I would like to thank professors and assistants of our section for their generous supports. Additionally, I appreciate to PWS for their supports.

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