

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. 12, 04	
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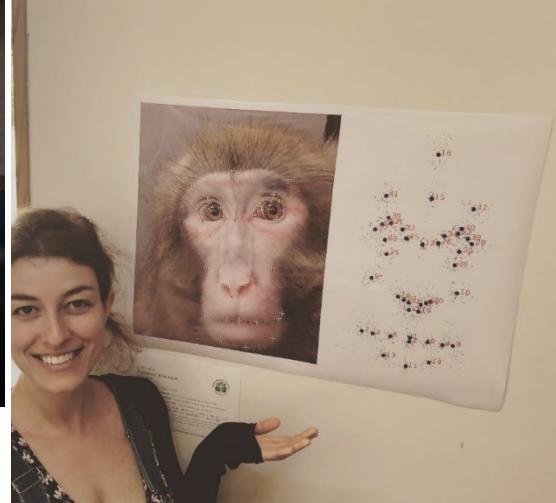
1. Country/location of visit
Science Seminar House, Kyoto University, Kyoto
2. Research project
International Student Symposium on Animal Behavior & Cognition
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019. 12. 03 – 2019. 12.04
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
TOMONAGA Masaki (PRI, Kyoto University)
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
<p>Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.</p> <p>During December 3-4 I participated in the International Student Symposium on Animal Behavior & Cognition, held at the Science seminar house in Kyoto. The symposium brought research topics in different ways: keynote speakers, oral and poster presentation sections and workshops.</p> <p>As a keynote speaker, Dr. Maureen McCarthy, chimpanzee researcher from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology focused on non-invasive methods of data collection. Once chimpanzees have long inter-birth interval and events like dispersal are rare and may take some time to happen, to record these animals to understand population dynamics is challenging and demands a long time of observation. She especially compared camera traps and long-term observation to measure if the methods would produce the same type of data to study social structure in the chimpanzee communities.</p> <p>The oral presentations gave me the opportunity to understand a bit more about cognition and behavior in many different species, from ant (<i>Lasius niger</i>) network, passing through the highly complex and stable social structure of the African bird vulturine guineafowl and including the artistic and zoosemiotic approach of the cognitive studies in horses.</p> <p>One of the talks that I enjoyed the most was a research made in red-footed tortoises, a species I researched during my Masters. The researcher was studying the influence of calcium in the diet of the tortoises and found out that supplemented tortoises exhibited better cognitive abilities than the non-supplemented ones in go/no-go task and a cognitive judgement bias test. The idea extends to welfare once that understanding reptile cognition may change and improve our methods of maintenance for these species in captivity, including nutritional care.</p> <p>I also attended the workshop on manuscript writing where we discussed about our difficulties and suggestions while in the process of writing. After a brief presentation, we all joined a round table and one of the important tips from Dr Máté Nagy was that we don't necessarily need to devote countless non-stop hours to write the manuscript, but maybe 2 or 3 or even 1 hour per day dedicate to writing without any interruption (no email or cellphone checking, no conversations). Also, he encouraged active leading of the research, do tentative and error, learn our weakness and strengths and by putting some boundaries to the research and opinions we can achieve one of the most important outcomes of the PhD course that is to become an independent researcher.</p>

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During the symposium, we also had the exhibition “Our World is Full of Wonders”, a series of pictures of research and/or future goals from Kyoto University students and researchers. My photo showed a bit about our work with facial expression in Japanese macaques.



Dr. Maureen McCarthy showing examples of data collection



My study about pain in Japanese Macaques at the Exhibition “Our World is full of Wonders!”

6. Others

I would like to thank PRI and WRC student for organizing this event. I am grateful for the financial assistance provided by the Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science (PWS), Kyoto University.