

DSV Seminars 2019



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE



DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE DELLA VITA

PhD Program in Neural and Cognitive Sciences

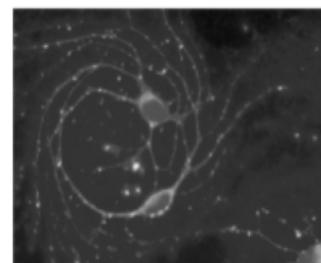
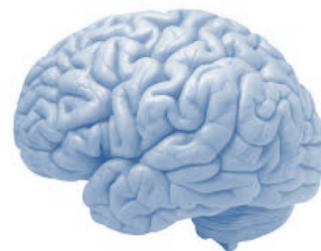
Friday, May 24, 2019 - 02:00 pm

Emiclo, Q Building – Via Licio Giorgieri, 5

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&

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The evolution of cognition: inter- and intra-specific variation

The ability to innovate, and the social transmission of innovations, have played a crucial role in human evolution. However, innovation is also important for other animals, by allowing them to cope with novel socio-ecological challenges and thus increase their fitness. Although innovation plays such a central role in animals' lives, researchers have only recently started to systematically investigate the conditions required for innovative behaviour to emerge. In this talk, I will present the results of a series of studies in wild and captive primates, and in captive ungulates, aiming to shed lights into the socio-ecological factors which best predict inter- and intra-specific variation in innovation. At the individual level, these factors include sex, age, rank, personality, social integration in the group and captive condition. At the specific level, they include socio-ecological characteristics like degree of frugivory, degree of diet specialization, social tolerance levels, and fission-fusion dynamics. After analyzing the results of our foraging tasks, we will discuss the pros and contras of the different approaches, and suggest possible lines for future research.