Syllabus

Infant Cognition

PhD Research Course
Department of Cognitive Science
Central European University
Fall 2015, 2 credits

Class: Wednesdays 11:00 to 10:40, in room 103, Cognitive Science Department, October 6 utca, 7.

Instructors:
György Gergely
Mikołaj Hernik
Ágnes Melinda Kovács

Office hours: by appointment

Description:
This course introduces students to the ongoing research at the Cognitive Development Center. It provides an overview of contemporary theories and research techniques of cognitive development of human infants below 2 years of age, focusing on the domain of social cognition. The course also involves laboratory practice to familiarize students with research techniques including behavioral, eye-tracking and neuroimaging methods.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should
- be familiar with recent findings in the research of infant social cognition,
- understand the difficulties of research with human infants,
- have a basic grasp of the methods used with infants, and
- be able to choose appropriate methods for research questions.

Evaluation:
No grade is awarded, only Pass/Fail mark. To Pass, students will have to
- attend classes and lab practice,
- read the assigned papers for each class,
- present selected papers to the class, and
- write a detailed Methods section for a study running in the CDC labs (submission deadline: Dec 11).
Schedule and literature:

Sep 23
**Face and gaze perception, sensitivity to ostensive signals**

Sep 30
**Contingency detection and its developmental functions**

Oct 7
**Reference to kinds, understanding artefacts,**

Oct 14
**Baby logic**

Oct 21
**Pointing as referential communication**

Oct 28
**Bilingual language acquisition**

Nov 4
**Action understanding**

Nov 11
**Representing Agents**
Nov 18

**Understanding social relations**

Nov 25

**Imitation: its mechanisms and developmental functions**

Dec 2

**Early ToM competencies**

Dec 9 - Wrapping up