Syllabus

Infant Cognition

PhD Research Course
Department of Cognitive Science
Central European University
Fall 2016, 2 credits

Class: Wednesdays 11:00am to 12:40pm, in Room 103, Október 6. utca 7.

Introductory session: (including lab visit): 11:00 am on Sep 14

Instructors:
Gergely Csibra
György Gergely
Ágnes Melinda Kovács
Ernő Téglás

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 9).
Schedule and literature:

Sep 21

**Action understanding**

Sep 28

**Representing social relations**

Oct 5

**Early ToM competencies**

Oct 12

**Recognizing communicative intentions**

Oct 19

**Referential expectation**

Oct 26

**Interpreting object labels**

Nov 2

**Bilingual language acquisition**

Nov 9

**Understanding artefacts**

Nov 16

**Imitation: its mechanisms and developmental functions**

Nov 23

**Infant logic**

Nov 30

**Contingency detection and its developmental functions**

Dec 7 - **Wrapping up**