Syllabus

Infant Cognition

PhD Research Course
Department of Cognitive Science
Central European University
Fall 2020, 2 credits

Class: Wednesdays 11:00am to 12:40pm, in Room 103 (or 226), Október 6. utca 7.

Introductory session: (including lab visit): 11:00am on Wednesday, Sep 23

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:
Students will have to

- attend classes and lab practice,
- read the assigned papers for each class,
- present selected papers to the class, and
- write detailed Methods sections for two studies running in the CDC labs (submission deadline: Dec 30).
Schedule and literature:

Sep 30
Object tracking, object individuation

Oct 7
Action understanding

Oct 14
Representing social interactions

Oct 21
Recognizing communicative and referential intentions

Oct 28
Interpreting object labels and other referential signals

Nov 4
Understanding artefacts

Nov 11
Bilingual language acquisition

Nov 18
Acquiring linguistic structure

Nov 25
Infant logic
Dec 2

**Perspective taking**

Dec 9

**Early ToM competencies**

Dec 16

**Turn-taking contingent reactivity and ostensive communication**