

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D3
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1. Country/location of visit
Lisbon and Porto, Portugal
2. Research project
Meeting and Presentation at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019.12.12-2019.12.27
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Ecocomp, Primate Cognition Research Group, University of Lisbon
5. Progress and results of your research/activity
<p>During this travel I attended several meetings and had the chance to present my ongoing work in the Ecocomp seminar, at the University of Lisbon.</p> <p>Ecocomp is a research unit belonging to the Adaptation Biology and Ecological Process Group of CESAM-Lisboa. This group is led by Prof. Luis Vicente and Prof. Susana Varela, and includes 14 PhD students and 2 graduate students in addition to the collaboration of several undergraduate students. Having a common background on evolution and behavioral ecology, this team includes a diversity of topics regarding adaptation, mating strategies, wildlife-human conflict, communication and cognition across taxa (fishes, reptiles, amphibious and mammals, including primates). It also includes ethical related projects, in particular, regarding invasive experiments with animals.</p> <p>During this presentation, I talked about my recent progress on my PhD project. Having senior researchers in the group, I received good feedback and support which helped me to review some of the issues I was facing with data presentation.</p> <p>During this trip, I also had a meeting with Andre Pereira in Porto. Andre is a recent PhD candidate from Exeter University. Andre and I will be collaborating in a paper regarding Andre’s field of expertise, social network analysis (SNA) applied to primate social interactions. We discussed ways to apply the SNA methodologies of analysis, to my data set, to see if the social cohesion in mountain gorillas is affected by the presence of tourists, and particularly, by the violation of the rules regarding the tourist visit: 1) distance of 7 meters to the animals and 2) maximum of 8 people per tourist group. Preliminary analysis shows similar responses to tourists as my previous work – gorillas may use social buffering to deal with the disturbance caused by tourist violation of rules.</p> <p>In addition to these meetings focusing on my project, I also attended a couple of meetings of Primate Research Group in Lisbon. Primate Cognition Research Group is a newly formed research team (2015) focusing on primate cognition under the ontogenetic and evolutionary perspectives. It is led by Dr. Angela Brandao and belongs to the Centre for Philosophy of Science of the University of Lisbon, including 9 junior and senior researchers. PCRG research focus on a bottom-up approach</p>

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to the study of individual differences in personality in several primate species, including capuchins, mandrills, ring-tailed lemurs, ruffed lemurs, gibbons and squirrel monkeys (so far). It grows from a comprehensive theory context, including the behavior, social and brain related theories to tackle the phylogeny of Personality. The first intended to discuss the ongoing writing and preparation of manuscripts. The second intended to discuss the next step for the group, in particular, the upcoming conference organized by this group in collaboration with the Senior University of Almada. This conference should be open to the public as an outreach activity, aiming to engage the local community with the research done by Portuguese Primatologists.

I also add the chance to debate with Dr. Angela Brandao, the principal investigator and founder of this group, my research in the light of individual differences which may contribute to different behavioural responses to tourists.

In sum, this trip helped me to refine some of my analysis and presentation efforts. It also solidified international collaborations.



Fig. 1. EcoComp group (members and logo), image retrieved in Informative Report Card of the Portuguese Ethology Society, volume 2, no.3 (2014).

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Fig.2. Website page of Primate Cognition Research Group (please visit at <http://primate-personality-research-group.org/#Home>).

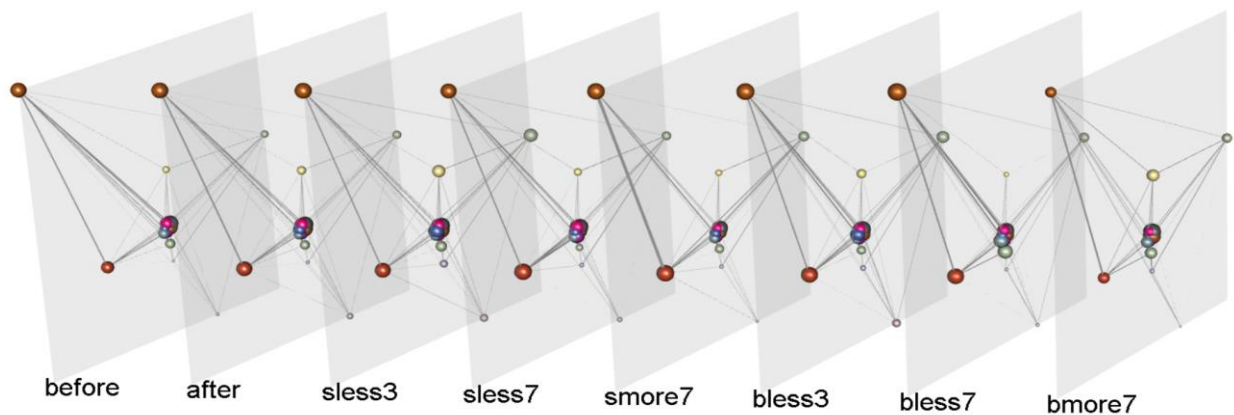


Fig. 3. Preliminary work on social network analysis with Andre Pereira.

6. Others

I wish to express my gratitude to my academic supervisors Prof. Misato Hayashi and PWS for supporting this trip. A special appreciation goes to Dr. Angela Brandao, the Ecocomp team and Andre Pereira for maintaining their interest in collaborative work and their friendship.