

PSYCHOLOGY MEETS BIOLOGY

mechanisms underlying development and evolution

Thursday 21 November – room 5171.0415 (“The Eye”) in the Linnaeusborg, Nijenborgh 7

moving to room 253 in Bernouilliborg after lunch

09³⁰ *arrival, coffee & introduction*

1. MECHANISMS & EVOLUTION

10⁰⁰ Paul van Geert Psychological mechanisms underlying social learning

Many fundamentally human characteristics (such as language and social norms) are transmitted culturally – but often during specific phases in development. What are the mechanisms underlying cultural transmission?

11⁰⁰ Franjo Weissing The genetic and cultural evolution of cooperative behaviour

Cultural change can be considered analogous to genetic evolution, and has been suggested to facilitate cooperative behaviour. How far can we take this analogy, and how can genetic and cultural evolution lead to cooperation?

12⁰⁰ *lunch*

2. BIOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY

13⁰⁰ Ralf Cox Timescale dynamics of developmental processes

The relation between psychology and biology cannot be viewed as one of hierarchy and reductionism. So how can we integrate these disciplines in a conceptual framework that takes the dynamics on different timescales into account?

14⁰⁰ Jaap Koolhaas Translational issues in behavioral neuroscience

In behavioral neuroscience the distinction between biology and psychology has virtually disappeared. What approaches are used in this multidisciplinary setting, what kind of knowledge has emerged, and what pitfalls remain?

15⁰⁰ *coffee*

3. INTEGRATION

15³⁰ Willem Frankenhuis When does natural selection favor sensitive periods in development?

Individuals adapt to their environments based on experience. However, the impact of a given experience (e.g. stress) depends on its timing. How does natural selection shape sensitivity to experience over the life course?

16³⁰ Discussion

Led by **Saskia Kunnen** (developmental psychology) and **Sander van Doorn** (theoretical biology)

17³⁰ *closing*