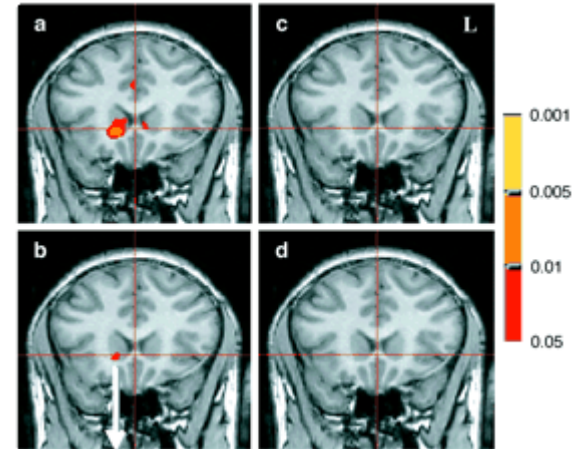


# Joint-Attention Episodes: The Prerequisite of Human Culture



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**COGNITIVE EVOLUTION  
GROUP**

# NWO Preparatory Workshop: 12 + 13 November Maastricht



# Background

- **For several animal species, gaze behaviour plays an important role and has an adaptive function in social interactions, such as finding food, group hierarchy and detection of predators.**
- **Joint attention occurs when two individuals attend to the same object and thereby establish a communication about their environment.**
- **Only humans, however, developed the adaptation to exploit gaze behaviour for *interactive* communication that allows an accumulation of culture. We call extended and interactive scenes of **Joint Attention: Joint Attention Episodes.****

# Interdisciplinary approach

Biology

Peter Richerson  
Daniel Povinelli

Psychology

Chris Moore  
Richard Griffin  
Bruce Hood

Neuroscience

Christian Keysers  
Rainer Goebel

# Organization

- **2 days workshop**
- **7 talks (open to all interested)**
- **1 hour for each talk**
- **30 minutes discussion after each talk**
- **2 hours round table discussion per day (open only to invited speakers), during which a list of questions and research goals were discussed**

# Speakers and Talks



**“The Evolution of the Psychological Prerequisites for Complex Culture”**

**Peter Richerson**

**University of California, Davis**



**“The Development of Joint Visual Attention in Infancy”**

**Chris Moore**

***University of Toronto***

# Speakers and Talks



**“The Tangled Web of Chimpanzee Cognitive Specializations”**

**Daniel Povinelli**

**University of Louisiana at Lafayette**



**“Social understanding in toddlers with autism: Where does it go wrong?”**

**Richard Griffin**

**University of Cambridge & Tufts University**

# Speakers and Talks



**“Reading the Eyes: What happens after you get my attention”**

**Bruce Hood**

**University of Bristol**



**“From mirror neurons to empathy”**

**Christian Keysers**

**RUG, Neuroimaging Center Groningen**

# Speakers and Talks



**“From real-time functional brain imaging to social neurofeedback experiments”**

**Rainer Goebel**

**UM**

# Results of the workshop

- **Clarification of difficult theoretical questions**
- **Concrete experimental methods and approaches elaborated**
- **New contacts and research collaboration plans**
- **Advisory board with all speakers**
- **Edited book envisioned**
- **Submission of research proposal to NWO**