

A celebration of the contribution of Prof. David Gaffan's work in neuroscience to mark his retirement.

Queen's College, University of Oxford, Sept 25th – 26th 2011.

Throughout his career, Prof. Gaffan has been a primary UK and international force in use of lesion methods to study brain mechanisms of behaviour in macaque monkeys, and in the power and imagination of his conceptions of brain function. With a focus on distributed cortical and subcortical systems, his interests have cut across traditional boundaries, e.g. between memory, attention, and perception, in this sense anticipating modern thinking in replacing fragmentary brain modules with integrated circuits. While doing much to illuminate the function of medial temporal lobe structures, Gaffan has argued strongly against dedicated “memory systems”, preferring instead to show how new memories depend on distributed cholinergic inputs to many parts of the cortex. Bringing together work from human and monkey, he has shown how perceptual/representational and memory systems combine in the temporal lobe. In the area of frontal lobe function, Gaffan's experiments show the rival forces of local specialization vs. distributed processing resource, in particular detailing the role of frontal activity in organizing complex, temporally-extended behaviour. This breadth and originality brings real excitement to this workshop based broadly on his ideas, and on the many colleagues and students with whom he has worked.

The workshop will be based around four half-day sessions, each including generous discussion periods to promote intensive interaction, in particular consideration of cross-session themes and integrated conceptions of cortical and subcortical function. Speakers are chosen to highlight findings that have emerged across species (human, macaque, rat) and neuroscientific approach (lesion, electrophysiology, fMRI, computational modelling).

Sessions:

Connection and integration

Medial temporal lobe: Linking objects to contexts

Perception, learning and memory: Parallel studies in animals and humans

Cognition, emotion and the prefrontal cortex

Confirmed speakers:

John Aggleton (Cardiff)

Morgan Barense (Toronto)

Malcolm Brown (Bristol)

Phil Browning (Mt Sinai School of Medicine)

Mark Buckley (Oxford)

Tim Bussey (Cambridge)

John Duncan (Cambridge)

Madeline Eacott (Durham)

Alex Easton (Durham)

Stefan Everling (London Ontario)

Kim Graham (Cardiff)

Andrew Mayes (Manchester)

Yasushi Miyashita (Tokyo)– EBBS lecturer

Betsy Murray (NIH)

John O'Keefe (London)

Dick Passingham (Oxford)

Matthew Rushworth (Oxford)

Lisa Saksida (Cambridge)

Larry Weiskrantz (Oxford)

Steve Wise (NIH)

The registration fee is £40 (£30 for EPS members). Lunch is not included but there are many local eateries where attendees can gather. There will be a conference dinner (numbers limited, so book early) on Sunday 25th Sept (£44) in Queen's College

To register, please email Mark Buckley (buckley@psy.ox.ac.uk) stating:

Name(s) of attendees:

Number of tickets required for conference dinner (£44).

Any dietary requirements for the conference dinner.

Details of methods of payment for Registration and Dinner will be emailed on registration. A block of en-suite accommodation has been reserved for attendees who wish to stay at Queen's College. This should be booked directly with Queen's College via the following URL: www.oxfordrooms.co.uk. To obtain our negotiated accommodation rate, attendees will need to input the code 'CONFERENCE' to book the rooms and will be charged £74 per night for an en suite single (with breakfast) and £116 per night for an en suite twin (with breakfast), payable by card upon booking (please disregard the note on the website saying that breakfast will not be served).

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the support of the EPS and EBBS for this workshop.