



Institute colloquium

# Convergent Minds and the Evolution of Complex Cognition

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Abstract: Great apes like chimpanzees are smart and have a large neocortex. In comparison, birds like corvids and parrots have much smaller brains and no neocortex. This should cast a dim prospect on their cognitive abilities. But studies of the last two decades revealed that there is not a single cognitive ability of chimpanzees (brain weight 400g) that was not also demonstrated in corvids and parrots (brain weights 5-25g). How is that possible? This question keeps me awake because it challenges core assumptions of the neural fundamentals of complex cognition. I guess, I must travel back into the beginnings of terrestrial vertebrate evolution to find answers. This talk is about this journey.

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:30am - 12:30pm**

Raiffeisen Lecture Hall



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