

# DK Symposium: Cognition and Communication

**Monday, 23 February 2026** -- Lecture Hall 1 (Hörsaal 1) at the UBB biology building (Djerassiplatz 1, 1030 Vienna)

**09:00 Plenary Lecture by Carel van Schaik: *The expensive brain and vertebrate brain size evolution***

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 -11:00 Speeches by Univ.-Prof. Tecumseh Fitch and Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Claus Lamm

## **Session 1, 11:00-13:00**

11:00-11:20 Andrea Ravignani

*Rhythm and synchronization in non-human primates*

11:20-11:40 Awani Bapat

*Social function of object play behaviour in common ravens*

11:40-12:00 Giovanni Spezie

*Behavioural plasticity of alternative reproductive tactics in ruffs and bowerbirds*

12:00-12:20 Vesta Eleuteri

*From Trunk to Mind: Intentional gestural communication in African savannah elephants*

12:20-12:40 Jim McGetrick

*Artificial cooperation and cognition in human-animal interaction*

12:40-13:00 Raffaella Lesch

*Urbanization, domestication, and the neural crest: a shared developmental pathway*

13:00-14:00 Lunch

**14:00 Plenary Lecture by Rosemary Grant: *Evolution on a Moving Tectonic Plate***

15:00 Coffee break

## **Session 2, 15:30-17:30**

15:30-15:50 Mark O'Hara

*Wild Minds - a decade of research on the Tanimbar Islands*

15:50-16:10 Magdalena Boch

*"What makes us social: A comparative framework to uncover the neural foundations of social cognition & behaviour"*

16:10-16:30 Thomas McGillavry

*Strange Antics: sexual signal evolution in a bird of paradise*

16:30-16:50 Hillary Jean-Joseph

*Dogs' and wolves' perception of humans*

16:50-17:10 Juliana Wallner Werneck Mendes

*Do dogs know the role of their partner when cooperating?*

17:10-17:30 Louise Mackie

*Do chimpanzees overimitate a conspecific model?*

**17:30-19:00 Poster Session and Wine reception**

**Tuesday, 24 February 2026** -- Natural History Museum (Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna)

15:00 Coffee

## **15:45-16:30 Speeches**

Vice-Rector Univ.-Prof. Dr. Manuela Baccarini

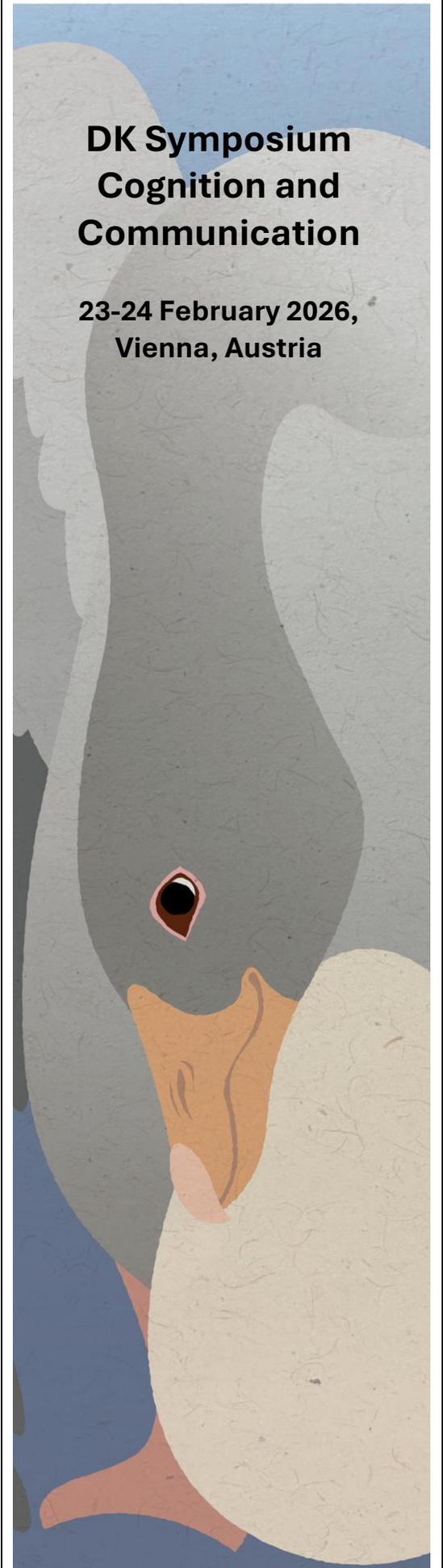
o. Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Engl

Univ.-Prof. Dr.rer.nat. Ludwig Huber

**16:30 Plenary Lecture by Peter Grant: *Adaptive radiation of Darwin's finches***

# DK Symposium Cognition and Communication

**23-24 February 2026,  
Vienna, Austria**



17:30 Plenary Lecture by Angela Stöger-Horwath: *Elephant communication as a basis for conservation measures: Perspectives from zoo and field research*

Presentation of ViBeCo by Leonida Fusani

19:00 Dinner

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