

**424-S**

**WHERE NEXT? GROUP COORDINATION AND DECISION-MAKING IN PRIMATES**

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Social animals have to make a multitude of group decisions on a daily basis in order to remain cohesive and benefit from sociality. At the most basic level, these decisions will involve making collective choices on when and where to travel. In some cases, it appears that single individuals coordinate groups and act as leaders. In others, individuals are described as using body orientation or initiation movements to come to consensus on group movement directions. The motion characteristics of individuals described in such studies may look, to an observer, like active leadership, or a type of 'voting behaviour'. However, rather than maintaining (cognitively demanding) representations of their complex environments, simple and local rules may allow primates to achieve coordination and realise the benefits of group-living. Further work now needs to focus on this issue, in order that we can discriminate between these hypotheses, and describe these interactions more precisely. This 'dual-symposia' will present a critical mass of researchers studying group coordination and decision-making in primates (including humans), and will also present contributions from experts researching self-organisation and network theory. In Symposia (1) talks will describe field-based studies. In Symposia (2) presentations will discuss methodology (experiments and modeling). Invited speakers will be both established leaders in their respective fields, as well as early-career researchers. We believe that this interdisciplinary approach will allow for a stimulating dual-symposium from a diverse group of speakers that will not only synthesise current theory, but inspire new and novel research in this area.

Keywords: Collective behaviour, self-organization, group decision-making.