



Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>  
14:00

Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology  
Via Accademia Albertina 13, Torino  
(Aula 2)



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## From Primates to Goats:

*Farm Animal Cognition and  
Its Implications for Animal Welfare*



Cognitive research on non-human animals has been a flourishing field, but surprisingly few studies have been conducted on farm animals. As a detailed understanding of the perceptive and cognitive abilities of non-human animals is necessary for understanding their normal behavioural expressions and for avoiding to expose them to mental distress, an approach towards the cognitive capacities of farm animals is crucial for progress in animal welfare related topics. This seminar aims to address some of the recent advances in farm animal cognition using modified test paradigms that have been used in comparative psychological research in primates and dogs. Focusing on human-animal interactions, I will present recent results of our goat studies conducted at a goat sanctuary near London. I will finish the talk with an outlook towards future studies and how these studies can target and affect animal welfare issues, particularly in terms of human-animal interactions and cognitive enrichment. Next to extending species range in comparative research, studies on the cognitive capacities of farm animals have the potential to build a bridge between applied ethology and the basic research in behavioural biology.

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