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## Archives Jean Piaget | Séminaire interdisciplinaire | 2016 Emotion et Intelligence

**Mardi 12 avril**

### **Social intelligence in great apes**

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Klaus Zuberbühler studied Zoology and Anthropology at the University of Zurich before moving to the U.S. to complete an M.A. (1995) and Ph.D. (1998) in Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. For his thesis research he carried out a series of field experiments with free-ranging primates in the Tai National Park, Ivory Coast. From 1998 to 2001, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, before moving to the University of St Andrews, first as a Lecturer, then as a Reader and finally full Professor in Psychology. In 2009, he became a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin and in 2011, he was elected 'Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh', Scotland's National Academy of Science. In 2012, he was appointed as Professor of Biology at the University of Neuchâtel where he directs a ERC and SNF funded research group on comparative cognition.

### **Résumé de la conférence**

How did early humans communicate before language? To address this, there has been a concerted effort in recent years to systematically study the communication of great apes in their natural environments. Results have revealed a plethora of precursor abilities in both chimpanzees and bonobos, presumably already present in the common ancestor, that paved the road to language. Many of these precursors seem to be more directly linked to social cognition than communication per se. I will review some recent progress of the field and explore the more general hypothesis that the emergence of group-level cooperation has been responsible for the emergence of spoken language in early humans.

### **Lecture proposée**

Zuberbühler, K. (2015). Linguistic capacity of non-human animals, *WIREs Cognitive Science*, 6, 313-321.