



הפקולטה למדעי החברה  
**המחלקה לפסיכולוגיה**  
מצויינות קלינית, מצויינות מחקרית



## 2018-19 Psychology Department Seminar Presents:

**Prof. Masako Myowa**

Kyoto University



### ***"Body awareness and social cognitive development from the fetal period"***

Recent cohort studies have shown that different extra-uterine experiences during the perinatal period may be closely related to later difficulties in cognitive, language, and emotional development. For example, compared with full-term infants, preterm infants display different patterns of gaze behavior during social interactions in their first year of life: they tend to avoid another's gaze more frequently when compared to full-term infants. Such findings raise the possibility that sensorimotor experience during the perinatal period might directly affect later social cognitive development. Indeed, there is a clear continuity in human sensorimotor development from prenatal to postnatal life. We reported that human fetuses have acquired some knowledge of their own bodies, as they are able to distinguish between their own bodies and other entities in the external environment. However, few studies have investigated the effects of preterm birth (i.e., influences of atypical, non-uterine environments) and sensorimotor experience for early neural development. In this talk, I will present our research suggesting that preterm and full-term newborns follow different trajectories in neural information processing. Furthermore, I will discuss that these different trajectories may be related to later difficulties with higher social-cognitive development in preterm children.

Masako Myowa is a Professor of Developmental Science at Kyoto University. She is the author of over 200 publications, editorials and books in the fields of Primatology and Developmental Science. She received the Nakayama Encouragement Award from the Nakayama Foundation for Human Science, Takashima Award from the Primate Society of Japan, and the award for International Contributions to Psychology from the Japanese Psychological Association, among other awards. Her research interests include the emergence and development of human intelligence and its evolutionary foundations.

You can find more details of Prof. Myowa's work at <http://myowa.educ.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en>

**Sunday, June 16, 2019**

**12:00-13:30, Room 301**

**Anna & Max Webb and Family Psychology Building**