# Primate brain networks for social processing

From agents, to actions, to interactions

# JULIA SLIWA



# julia.sliwa@icm-institute.org



# We spend most of our time watching others



# Most primates live in large social groups



# Most primates live in large social groups



### Rhesus Monkeys

Humans



# Rhesus Monkeys

Humans

Agents



#### Rhesus Monkeys

Humans





Tsao, Freiwald, et al. Nat neuro 2003

Kanwisher, et al. J. neuro. 1997



# Rhesus Monkeys

Humans



#### Individual recognition in rhesus monkeys

Sylvia Wirth, Jean-Rene Duhamel

Institut des Sciences Cognitives – Marc Jeannerod CNRS Lyon, France









# Rhesus Monkeys









 Reveal hidden properties of agents (e.g. dominance, feelings, relationships...)



# Rhesus Monkeys

# Humans







#### Processing social interactions

#### Winrich Freiwald

Rockefeller University, New York







#### Discrimination



Individual recognition





Individual recognition in monkeys?



Individual recognition







#### Cross-modal sensory priming paradigm





#### Individual recognition in monkeys?



Face



#### **Cross-modal sensory priming paradigm**





Pourcentage of looking time







Test of face-voice association

Sliwa et al., PNAS, 2011

Percentage of total looking time



#### Fixation + Sound Exploration Fixation Fixation Test 1 monkey stimuli light of a Test human stimuli 1 **Comparisons of**

# Cognitive representation of identity by rhesus monkeys





#### Comparisons of looking time



#### Cross-modal sensory priming paradigm



Belin et al., Nat. 2000

#### Human hippocampus







Quiroga, et al. Nat. 2005

Monkey hippocampus ?















- Face-selective neurons in the hippocampus
- Representation of social information in the monkey hippocampus

Sliwa, et al. Cer Cor 2014

#### Hippocampus



Temporal cortex



#### Hippocampus



Invariant representation in the visual domain that do not generalize to the auditory domain



Neurons categorize *sounds* away from *visual* stimuli and faces away from objects
 Codes in the hippocampus and temporal cortex resembled each other in the monkey



Rhesus Monkeys

Humans

- 1. Rhesus monkeys individually recognize their peers
- 2. Face-selective view-invariant neurons in the hippocampus
- 3. Invariant representations in the visual domain did not generalize to the auditory domain



# Rhesus Monkeys

# Humans







#### Processing social interactions

#### Winrich Freiwald

Rockefeller University, New York









# Rhesus Monkeys

### Humans









- $\rightarrow$  Reveal something about our human nature?
- What we have in *common* with other primates and would be ancestral?
- What is *specific* to humans and sets us apart from other primates?

# Studying the monkey brain using fMRI and naturalistic videos





Sliwa & Freiwald, Science 2017

# Studying the monkey brain using fMRI and naturalistic videos

Videos

# Social Interactions

Actions

No Action



Scrambled version

Scrambled version

Scrambled version



Control for motion

Sample gaze pattern



Motion quantification

Sample gaze pattern



Gaze pattern

Sample gaze pattern



Motion extract



Motion extract



Motion extract



Original videos by Machado and Amaral (UCSD) and from Rhesus Play

# Studying the monkey brain using fMRI and naturalistic videos



# Processing non-acting agents



Videos of non-acting monkeys in a naturalistic setting engage classical face and body areas

Sliwa & Freiwald, Science 2017

# Face and body-selective areas are not only visual shape analyzers

#### Not acting monkeys



#### Acting monkeys



#### Social Interactions





The type of social scene differently modulates basic mechanisms of face and body perception in the STS and frontal cortex

# Processing Actions

Contrast







# Processing Actions



# **Processing Actions**



Di Pellegrino et al. Exp Brain Res 1992

Videos of acting monkeys in a naturalistic setting engage the parieto-frontal cortex in areas overlapping with the Mirror Neuron System
Sliwa & Freiwald, Science 2017

# The Mirror Neuron System as a generic analyzer of both social and physical interactions



The anterior part of parietal MNS appears specifically activated by physical interactions
 A broader role of the MNS for social and physical world simulation

# Processing social interactions





Sliwa & Freiwald, Science 2017

# Processing social interactions



Showing the specific aptitude of primate brains for extracting social information from interactions.

# A network for social interaction processing



Regions of the monkey brain engaged selectively for social interaction analysis

A property reminiscent of the Default Mode Network in human

# A network for social interaction processing



Saxe, Curr Op Neurobiol, 2006

- Located in areas homologous to the human theory of mind network
- Monkeys have limited theory of mind abilities (Santos et al.)
- Processing social interactions could be a putative precursor of our ToM ability

Sliwa & Freiwald, Science 2017

# How do these networks relate to each other?



- Face and body areas cluster separately by their responses to the different videos
- The MNS differs substantially from the (E)SIN , and is more similar to object and body patches.
- Greater similarity of face patches to the ESIN than any other patches, suggesting these areas as putative entry points to the ESIN.
- Two streams segregating in the STS

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Rhesus Monkeys

Humans

![](_page_38_Figure_4.jpeg)

- face areas and body areas
- *mirror neuron system*
- proto- theory of mind network

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Rhesus Monkeys

Humans

fMRI targeted electrophysiological recordings

Human fMRI

![](_page_39_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_7.jpeg)

with F. Aboharb

with S. Marvel and G. lanni

![](_page_40_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Rhesus Monkeys

![](_page_40_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_5.jpeg)

with Sadie Marvel and Geena Ianni

# Comparing neural strategies in monkeys and humans

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Rhesus Monkeys

#### Humans

![](_page_41_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Comparing neural strategies in monkeys and humans

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

> Which neural strategies are shared and which ones adapted to the specific needs of the species?

# Conclusions

![](_page_43_Picture_1.jpeg)

These results contribute to helping trace the roots of human social cognition in the primate lineage.

They provide a primate model for studying higher-level social cognition at the whole-brain scale with pharmacological manipulations and neurophysiological recordings.

Opening new venues for investigating other facets of social cognition across species.

![](_page_43_Picture_5.jpeg)

# Acknowledgements

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

Winrich Freiwald Freiwald Lab members

Sadie Marvel, Geena Ianni, Farid Aboharb, Jadyn Petterson-Rae, Elayna Kirsch, Hannah Fagen,

![](_page_44_Picture_4.jpeg)

Sylvia Wirth Jean-René Duhamel

![](_page_44_Picture_6.jpeg)

Aurélie Planté, Olivier Pascalis (Grenoble) Institut des Sciences Cognitives members

![](_page_44_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_9.jpeg)

Postdoc and student positions available Contact: julia.sliwa@icm-institute.org

# Nuisance regressors

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

Motion

![](_page_46_Figure_3.jpeg)

⊢— 15 s

# Additional behavioral controls

Videos with a rich content, not standardized Monkeys freely looking behavior

- 1. Motion
- 2. Luminance
- 3. Face velocity
- 4. Body velocity
- 5. Hands velocity
- 6. Object velocity
- 7. Pupil dilation
- 8. Blinks
- 9. Juice
- **10**.Looking at Faces
- **11**.Looking at Bodies
- 12.Looking at Hands
- 13.Looking at Objects
- 14.Gaze following
- 15. Emotional arousal

# Additional behavioral controls

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)