

Perspectives on Psychological SCIENCE

A Journal of the Association for Psychological Science



Perspectives on Psychological Science is a publication of the Association for Psychological Science.

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Dear Member of the Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology (ESN),

You already may know that APS is co-sponsoring a symposium on epigenetics at the upcoming Basel ESN meetings: <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/esn/>. So, in recognition of the connection between ESN and APS I also would like to provide you with complimentary journal access for another topic that may be of interest – Mirror Neurons – and an equally complimentary offer of APS Membership.

In the current issue of *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, a team of distinguished researchers addresses how the mirror neuron system might support processes as diverse as speech and language, social interaction, autism and more.

This issue has received enormous interest and accordingly, in special arrangement with SAGE Publications, we have made access to this Special Forum on Mirror Neurons free to all until September 1, 2011. I encourage you to share this email and the links to the articles (below) with any colleagues, within and outside of psychology.

And, we'd like to offer every ESN member who is not now an APS Member (we hope our current members understand) a complimentary APS membership. Please accept all our journals and other APS benefits through December 2012 as tangible evidence of our appreciation for the work you all do. No strings. Just click <http://www.joinaps.org/?p=MNF12&s=join> and fill out the online form. You'll see that you'll owe \$0 at the end of it. That's it, but go ahead and email me if you have any questions. I look forward to welcoming you as a member.

Best, Alan

ALAN G. KRAUT
APS Executive Director

Special Forum on Mirror Neurons

[Introduction to the Mirror Neuron Forum](#)

Arthur M. Glenberg

Mirror neurons are neurons that are active when an animal is engaging in a certain activity (e.g., eating a banana) as well as when that animal is watching another animal engage in the same activity. This introduction provides a historical review of mirror neuron research, discusses the methods used to research mirror neurons, and defines terms that are common in the field. Glenberg also weighs the pros and cons of each research method with a particular focus on methods that are used to research mirror neurons in humans.

[Mirror Neuron Forum](#)

Vittorio Gallese, Morton Ann Gernsbacher, Cecilia Heyes, Gregory Hickok, and Marco Iacoboni

Depending on the researcher you ask, mirror neurons are either the hottest topic in neurobiology or they are merely another neural cell type. Five researchers with varying opinions were brought together to discuss six questions about the fundamental characteristics of mirror neurons and the putative roles these cells have in learning processes, neural development, social cognition, and human disease. In

University of California, Berkeley

Elizabeth F. Loftus
University of California, Irvine

Walter Mischel
Columbia University

the forum, each participant was given a chance to address each question and an additional chance to respond to the other participants' answers.

[Positions in the Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear](#)

Arthur M. Glenberg

As a conclusion to the Mirror Neuron Forum, the author discusses the points that were made during the discussion and highlights areas where theory or methods could be improved. Overall, Glenberg concludes that progress is being made in the understanding of how the mirror neuron system supports various psychological processes even though the responses from the forum participants were not unanimous.



Perspectives on Psychological Science is a publication of the Association for Psychological Science. Please contact APS at aps@psychologicalscience.org or by telephone at +1 202.293.9300 with questions or comments.

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