



Guest lecture with

Dr Suzanne Zeedyk

Senior lecturer
University of Dundee, Scotland

September 8, 2010 at 3.15 PM
Room I:205

**Imitation and Autism:
How we've got the story wrong and why it matters**

Mainstream accounts of autism generally argue that deficits in primary intersubjectivity are core to autism. This talk will challenge that view. There is a growing body of evidence showing that when a partner's responses are closely attuned to the actions and rhythms of their autistic partner, primary intersubjectivity quickly flourishes. The pair is able to engage in mutual attention, tease and anticipate, and, most fundamentally, share joy. The talk will present videotape evidence of such engagement, and will explore the way in which these insights force us to re-examine some of the fundamental assumptions that are currently held about the nature of autism. It becomes apparent that autistic people have no less desire for human connection than do all the rest of us.

Dr. Zeedyk's (PhD, Yale University 1994) research programme comprises two interwoven strands: (1) Parent-infant interaction and communication and (2) Applied epistemology of science. For a full CV see <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/psychology/people/academics/mszeedyk/index.htm>

Everyone's welcome!

Mikael Heimann