



**“HUMAN BRAINS: CONVERSATIONS”  
LIVE STREAMING PROGRAM**

The first two lectures and the first live talk, scheduled for Thursday, 30 September 2021, will involve Angela D. Friederici (Director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, Germany) and Robert C. Berwick (Professor of Computational Linguistics and Engineering in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA). The talk will focus on the specificity of human language and its relation with other animal and artificial languages.

The following two lectures and the live conversation scheduled for Thursday, 21 October 2021 will investigate the distinction between the functions of brain’s right and left hemispheres and attention mechanisms. The event will see the participation of Guido Gainotti (Professor Emeritus of Neurology at the Department Neurology of Policlinico Gemelli, Università Cattolica, Rome) and Paolo Bartolomeo (Director at the Inserm, the French state biomedical research institute, and at the PICNIC Lab at the ICM – Paris Brain Institute in the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital).

During their lectures and talk on Thursday, 25 November 2021, Ellen Bialystok (Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology and Walter Gordon Research Chair of Lifespan Cognitive Development at York University of Toronto) and Jason Rothman (Professor of Linguistics at the UiT the Arctic University of Norway and Senior Researcher in Cognitive Science at Universidad Nebrija in Spain) will deal with bilingualism and its advantages and disadvantages for the human brain.

The integration and relationship between language and music through an evolutionary perspective is the core of the lectures by Steven Mithen (Professor of Early Prehistory at the University of Reading, UK) and Stefan Koelsch (professor of Biological Psychology and Music Psychology at the University of Bergen, Norway) and of the conversation that will take place on Thursday, 27 January 2022.

Jeffrey Kleim (Associate Director of the School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering at Arizona State University in Tucson) and Álvaro Pascual-Leone (Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, Senior Scientist at the Hinda and Arthur Marcus Institute for Aging Research and Medical Director of the Deanna and Sidney Wolk Center for Memory Health at Hebrew SeniorLife in Boston, MA) will focus their lectures and talk on the relationship between genetics, the possibility to increase brain plasticity through neuromodulation and the related ethical implications. The debate will take place on Thursday, 17 February 2022.

The subject of the two following lectures and conversation scheduled for Thursday, 22 March 2022 will be the analysis of the evolutionary approach to conscience and the



relationship between science, biological evolution and philosophy. This topic will be investigated by Simona Ginsburg (Associate Professor of The Open University of Israel, Ra'anana) and Eva Jablonka (member of the Sagol School of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv and Research Associate in the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science of the London School of Economics, London University).

The program of "Human Brains: Conversations" will end with a philosophical meeting. Massimo Cacciari (Professor Emeritus in Philosophy at the San Raffaele University in Milan and member of the Lincean Academy) and Michele Di Francesco (full professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science of the School for Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia) will investigate the influence of figures such as Plato, Descartes and Spinoza that crucially shaped the birth of the history of Western thinking in relation to science and conscience studies. The last online event of "Human Brains: Conversations" will be held on Thursday, 14 April 2022 and will be coordinated by a moderator who is currently being defined.

**Further information and online platform**

[humanbrains.fondazioneprada.org](http://humanbrains.fondazioneprada.org)

**Press contacts**

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