

SCHOOL MEETINGS

Ph.D. Psychological Sciences



06.11.2025

**PAULA PÉREZ
FRAGA**



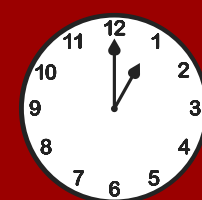
Behavioural and Acoustics
Research for K9 Sounds

Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Hungary

Comparing Apples and Oranges: Methodological Challenges in Comparative Ethology through the example of Dogs and Pigs?

**SEMINAR hosted by
Kimberly Brosche**

Open to All Interested



Time 13:00



Lecture Hall - Building #5

ESU Student House, Via Venezia 20

access at the rear of the building



phd.psychology@unipd.it



<https://dottorato.psy.unipd.it/en>



Dipartimento di Psicologia dello
Sviluppo e della Socializzazione



DIPARTIMENTO
DI PSICOLOGIA
GENERALE
Università di Padova



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

COMPARING APPLES AND ORANGES:

METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN COMPARATIVE ETHOLOGY THROUGH THE EXAMPLE OF DOGS AND PIGS?



Various animal species can engage in socio-communicative interactions with humans, yet the factors that promote such behaviours remain under debate. Domestication, socialization, and species-specific predispositions may all play a role. To better understand how human–animal communication is shaped, it is essential to compare different species kept in similar conditions. However, adopting a comparative approach when studying non-human animals, presents several challenges. Researchers must account not only for species-specific sensory and motor differences, but also for animals' domestication history, motivational tendencies, and ecological background. Designing tasks that are truly comparable across species is particularly complex, raising questions such as whether experimental procedures should be standardized or not. In this seminar, I will address these issues and open a space for debate around the topic, by presenting a series of studies directly comparing the human-oriented communicative abilities of two domestic species—companion dogs and companion pigs—where our aim was to explore the factors that may shape emergence of such abilities.

Biosketch Paula Pérez Fraga, DVM, PhD



**BARKS Lab, Department of Ethology,
Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Hungary**


Paula is deeply interested in animal–human socio-communicative interactions. During her PhD at the Neuroethology of Communication Lab, Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest), she investigated the factors shaping animals' human-oriented communicative abilities, such as individual experience and domestication pathways. Adopting a comparative perspective, her research focused on companion dogs and pigs. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the BARKS Lab, Eötvös Loránd University, where she continues to study animal–human interactions. Her present work explores indicators of dogs' inner states by examining the relationships between physiological measures, vocalizations, and behaviour.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

1:00 PM

**LECTURE HALL - BUILDING 5
(VIA VENEZIA, 20)**

INFOS :  <https://dottorato.psy.unipd.it/en>

 phd.psychology@unipd.it