

Chorong Kim

Ewha Womans University

Laboratory of Behavior and Ecology

A Visit to Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University

21st March 2010 ~ 27th March 2010

When asked to visit the prominent *Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University* from Dr. Jae Choe, I was excited to have an opportunity to see the actual experiments conducted by young graduate students. As an evolutionary psychology student, the evolutionary origin of human cognition has been placed on the center of my interests. To understand human cognition better, discussing non-human primates' cognition would be unavoidable.

Me and my colleagues from Ewha Womans University attended “*Hope-GM Lectures on Primate Mind and Society*” conference in Kyoto. I took many invaluable lectures, including Dr. Frans de Wall's, and I could feel the devotion of my contemporaries on primate studies. After attending the conference in Kyoto, I and other three colleagues headed for Inuyama, which is a quiet and beautiful city of Japan.



On the top of Inuyama castle, Japan

Upon entering the institute, I could hear the sound of Chimpanzees and other animals, which was somewhat unfamiliar to me. Later, I found out that it was the sound of Japanese Macaques. The great benefit of PRI is that it is the institute, which is surrounded by many chimpanzees and primates. In PRI, the primates are there to make observation and study. It reduces time of making a habituation for conducting experiments.

In PRI, I had a good time participating in one of Fumihiro Kano's experiments as a human subject. Even though I am not conducting any experiment recently, it was useful for me to watch and learn how experiment goes in the lab in PRI. A comparative study is a key to understanding the difference between human and non-human primate's cognition. Seeing the experiment carried out with chimpanzees was a wonderful experience to get a new perspective to study evolutionary

psychology; it made me think of the differences between humans and non-human primates once again.



eye-tracking study

PRI seemed to be a great place to study primates with scientific perspective. I could meet many international students, who devote their lives to studying primates. Someday, I would collaborate with them to discover the origin of human mind. I would like to show gratitude to Dr. Matsuzawa for inviting me to PRI. Also, I would like to thank Dr. Ikuma Adachi and many kind students for helping all of us during the stay in Japan.