

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**  
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

	2015. 11. 16
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D1
<b>Name</b>	Duncan Wilson

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Kyoto City Zoo, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
SAGA 18 Symposium (Support for African/Asian Great Apes)
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2015. 11. 14 - 2015. 11. 15 (2 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Prof. Masaki Tomonaga (Primate Research Institute)
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>The ‘SAGA 18’ symposium was a great opportunity for me to learn about the work people are doing in Japan and abroad to support great apes, and zoo animal management in general.</p> <p>I was particularly interested to hear Dr. Steve Ross’s (Director at the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes) talk ‘The Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (SSP): Cooperative Management of Zoo Housed Chimpanzees’. In his talk he mentioned that there are 1,720 chimpanzees in the US, but only 16% live in accredited zoos. Most of the chimpanzees are kept, or have been kept, as pets by private owners, as performers in the entertainment industry (e.g. television commercials), in unaccredited zoos, and in laboratories for research. The goals of the SSP include: that zoos work together to benefit the captive chimpanzee population as a whole, not just the individual zoo; ensuring there is social group complexity (e.g. transferring mainly female chimpanzees between zoos to mimic the natural fission-fusion social system), and maintaining a genetically and demographically healthy population. Only 9% of female chimpanzees in the SSP can breed (others are on contraception) which has helped 98.8% gene diversity to be retained, along with good genetic health. Dr. Ross believes this is the starting point from which we can start to focus on the welfare of individual chimpanzees. Other important points raised were that strictly chimpanzee mother rearing (not human rearing) is essential to ensure that chimpanzees are able to socialise normally. Therefore, when infants are rejected by their biological mothers, surrogate mothers should be in place to take over rearing duties. Also, large multi-male groups are best for captive welfare, as this increases social complexity and reduces wounding from fighting. As my research interests are focused on individual cognitive-emotion-welfare assessment, listening to Dr. Ross’s talk helped to give me a broader picture of captive animal welfare that starts with a genetically and demographically healthy population.</p> <p>During the discussion after Dr. Ross’s talk, I was interested to hear Dr. Ross say that people do not talk much about the issue of chimpanzees in entertainment in the US, and he was pleasantly surprised to hear Japanese primatologists strongly objecting to the use of one chimpanzee ‘Pan-kun’ in a Japanese TV show. I believe that all chimpanzees should live in the wild and should not perform human-like acts for our entertainment. However, I wondered whether showing chimpanzees performing human-like acts on TV (e.g. buying a train ticket, making ramen) could actually give people more respect for the intelligence and welfare of chimpanzees, rather than simply seeing them in a zoo doing nothing, or even performing abnormal behaviours. However, I think a better alternative to showing people these ‘human-like qualities’ would be to have more nature documentaries on Japanese TV, so that the public can have respect for chimpanzees, and indeed other wild animals, by seeing how fascinating and complex their natural lives are. I hope to discuss this issue further someday.</p>

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I was also fortunate to briefly talk to Dr. Ross about his interests in cognitive bias during the symposium. He mentioned his colleagues had been working on a protocol for conducting cognitive bias experiments with chimpanzees and macaques for over a year. He is currently collaborating with Melbourne University, Australia, and would also like to collaborate with PRI in order to have a number of studies from different institutions using the same methodology. He would like us to check his protocols and come to an agreement on the best methodology to use. As cognitive bias is currently a popular method of animal mood/welfare assessment (in addition to traditional behavioural and physiological measures), and there is very little work done in chimpanzees (only Bateson and Nettle, 2015), I think this will be an interesting and exciting collaboration.

In addition, I also found the poster ‘Long-term stress hormone monitoring in chimpanzees’ presented by Mr. Teramoto (WRC) very interesting. The poster discussed how cortisol measurements (taken from hair) varied in different contexts, e.g. fighting, after injury, in hot and cold environments, at different ages, and when dominance hierarchy is stable or unstable. I also asked Mr. Teramoto about other short-term measures of cortisol which included saliva, urine and faeces. He said that cortisol levels in saliva (the most short-term measure) would be expected to increase after watching arousing video stimuli. I think this could be an interesting additional component to my research in the future, after I have mastered the main comparative cognitive methodology.

Overall, I enjoyed the symposium and I am very grateful for the opportunity to meet Dr. Ross. Thank you very much.



Poster Session in the Great Ape House.



Poster: ‘Long-term stress hormone monitoring in chimpanzees’

**6. Others**