

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2016. 08, 04                |                                |
| <b>Affiliation/Position</b> | Primate Research Institute/ D3 |
| <b>Name</b>                 | Sofi Bernstein                 |

|  |
|--|
| <b>1. Country/location of visit</b>  |
| Prague, Czech Republic; Landskron, Austria; Vienna, Austria  |
| <b>2. Research project</b>   |
| Attend the 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Gatherings in Biosemiotics; Visit to Affenberg Monkey Park; Attend the 2016 European Conference on Behavioral Biology   |
| <b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>   |
| 2016. 07. 04 – 2016. 07. 15 (12 days)  |
| <b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>   |
| Charles University; Svenja Gaubatz and Abenteuer Affenberg; University of Vienna   |
| <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>First and foremost, I would like to thank PWS for this rare opportunity to attend several conferences and visit colleagues in Austria for potential collaborations. This opportunity greatly enriched my time here as a PhD student, and afforded me the ability to give presentations on all of the different chapters of my thesis. This one of a kind experience also helped me practice my skills as a speaker at international conferences and improved my abilities in science communication.</p> <p>I was told about the biosemiotics conference in Prague as a good opportunity to combine philosophy and science in the field of communication. I have a background in philosophy, so I was very interested in attending this conference and experiencing talks in a new field. My talk was more analytical and dealt with the fine tuned aspects of acoustics and vocal communication. It was very interesting to give a talk to an audience that was more interested in the definitions of terms and what the signals mean. I was able to gain a new perspective on my research and think about my work in a completely different way. They conference was held at Charles University, a historic university in the capital of the Czech Republic that happens to have some of the oldest university buildings in Europe dating back to the baroque era. There was a great sense of history all around the conference due to the environment, and the staff and faculty were very nice and open to newcomers of the field. Many people were interested in my talk because they mostly discuss theories of communication systems, so a talk about a newly established vocal repertoire in a non-human primate species was an interesting addition to the talks at the conference.</p> <p>I then headed to Ossiach, Austria to meet with Svenja Gaubatz and Lena Pflugger, both came to PRI in February of this year as guests of Dr. Michael Huffman. From my time spent with them in February we established a connection, and they invited me to visit their monkey park and research station to discuss potential collaborations. The monkey park is one of the best I have ever seen, and a lot of time and care is given to the research going on there and the enrichment of the Japanese macaques inhabiting the surrounding forests. Together we devised a plan to extend on some of their research concerning sexual signals of attractiveness in females, and discussed adding an acoustic component to the framework of their analyses. Together we intend to analyze the estrus calls of females, looking at differences in pitch and other acoustic parameters in conjunction with behaviors and hormonal data during the mating season. I hope to write a proposal together with Lena and other researchers at the University of Vienna to establish this project.</p> <p>After my time at Affenberg, I headed to Vienna to attend the European Conference on Behavioral Biology. I was particularly interested in this conference since many of the sessions were focused on vocal communication and production mechanisms. I had the rare opportunity to talk to experts in my field and discuss my work with them during my presentation. It was also nice to expand my knowledge in the field of ethology and hear talks from species outside of non-human primates. There were also sessions on sexual selection, a topic of one of my chapters, and my attendance in those sessions improved my thoughts on my own work. Overall, this was an incredible experience, and I am very grateful to PWS.</p> |

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

**6. Others**



Entrance to Charles University in  
Prague



Baroque era architecture at Charles  
University in Prague



Starting the Gatherings in  
Biosemiotics



Statue commemorating the opening  
of Mozart's Don Giovanni opera  
outside the University



Main office for the Affenberg  
Monkey Park Research Station



A mother and her infant at  
Affenberg

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**



Tourists attending the park tour at  
Affenberg



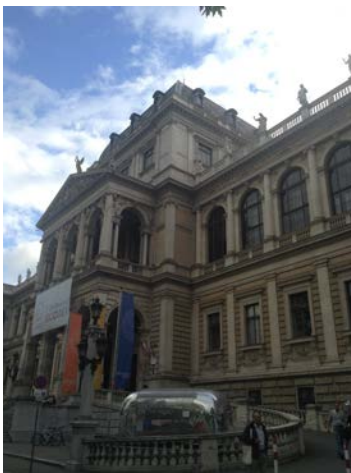
Entrance to the lab at Affenberg



Opening the ECBB conference in  
Vienna



Chucks = chicks! Fascinating talk in  
the vocal communication session



University of Vienna main entrance



Gala dinner invitation from the mayor  
at Rathaus, Vienna

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**