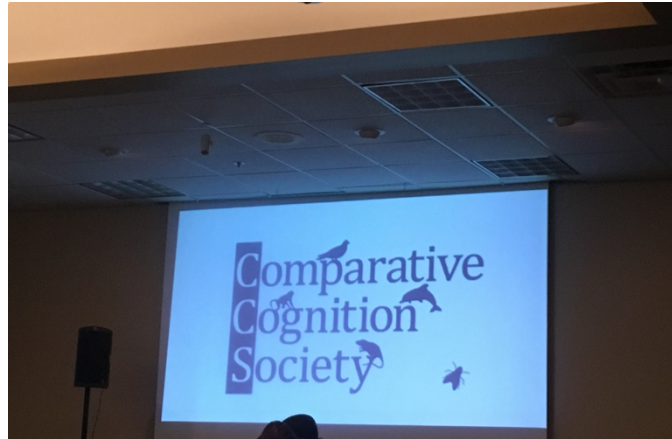


**Research Activity Report**  
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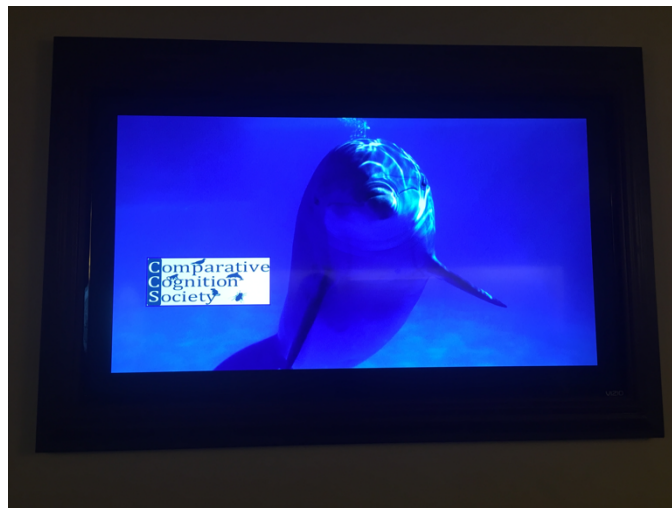
2018. 4, 14	
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D1
<b>Name</b>	Gao Jie

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Melbourne, Florida, US
<b>2. Research project</b>
The 25th International Conference on Comparative Cognition
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2018. 4. 3 – 2018. 4. 10 (8 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Comparative Cognition Society
<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>I attended the 25th International Conference on Comparative Cognition at Melbourne, Florida, US in early April. The conference was held from April 4th to 8th. I went there on April 3rd, left on 8th and returned Japan on April 10th.</p> <p>This was the first time for me to join this conference. In the past, I have attended many conferences that covered more general topics, where I could learn things from a board view and grasp what’s going on in the general field; I have also attended many conferences that focused more on a specific aspect, which brought deeper and more professional discussion and thoughts. These two kinds of conferences both benefit me a lot. This time, it was more of the second type, and at the same time, with a variety of sub-topics in comparative cognition.</p> <p>On the first day, we had talk sessions about memory, spatial cognition, and cognitive processes. I was kind of surprised by the many species being studied, from rats to monkeys, gorillas, and humans. On the following days, I was also attracted by those studies in dogs, birds, dolphins, and cold-blooded animals – Dr. Anna Wilkinson chaired a symposium on “Cold-blooded Cognition”. They talked about very interesting studies done in reptiles. There was a student competition session on the second day, and the topics varied a lot. Students’ talks were 5 minutes. It was short but still effective enough to express and digest the key points of each study. The talks covered communication, learning, cognitive processes, and problem solving. I was especially impressed by two talks on cognitive processes, a modified Stroop test to assess gorillas’ response to emotion stimuli, and SNARC effects in pigeons, blue jays, and Japanese macaques. They even threw an idea to me directly that I may use in the future.</p> <p>I had my talk on the last day. We actually met and shared a cab with the chair of my presentation session, Dr. Ken Cheng when going to the hotel from Melbourne airport. He kindly introduced that I came from Japan, and people were surprised. I talked about our research on the body inversion effect in chimpanzees. It seemed to go well. Many people told me it was a good presentation, and we had some discussions in the poster session later that day.</p> <p>I also enjoyed the banquet, and the two poster sessions. One poster reported face pareidolia in Rhesus monkeys. They were reported to be sensitive to anything that looks like a face (with the the shape and pattern of eyes and the mouth). We were talking about the relation to one of the conditions I have tested with chimpanzee bodies; actually chimpanzees and monkeys may also show this in bodies because bodies without front faces are seen even more often than clear front faces in their daily lives. Another study I found very interesting was about violations of rules when humans represent serial patterns. This was a study about rule learning and reasoning.</p> <p>I had a great time in this conference, knowing people, listening to interesting talks, and having discussions over my presentation.</p>

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(The venue)



(A screen outside the venue with a lovely dolphin on it)

**6. Others**

I would like to thank PWS for supporting this trip.