

O r i g i n s of H u m a n U n i q u e n e s s

Cooperation, Culture and Conflict in Apes

As our closest living relatives, chimpanzees provide unique information about the human condition. Specifically, behavioral observations of wild chimpanzees inform us about the changes that have taken place during the course of human evolution and the characteristics that make us uniquely human. Because of their long lifespans and slow reproduction, however, chimpanzees give up the secrets of their lives slowly, and several questions about their behavior persist. In this talk, I review findings from recent field research conducted on the behavior of wild chimpanzees. I highlight results derived from my own long-term study of an unusually large community of chimpanzees at Ngogo, Kibale National Park, Uganda. My observations of coalitionary behavior, hunting, meat sharing, and territoriality provide new insights into male chimpanzee cooperation.



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SCOB (Schwada Building) 210

John Mitani is a primate behavioral ecologist who investigates the behavior of our closest living relatives, the apes. His current research involves studies of an extremely large community of wild chimpanzees at Ngogo, Kibale National Park, Uganda. During the past 28 years, Mitani has conducted fieldwork on the behavior of all five species of apes: gibbons and orangutans in Indonesia, gorillas in Rwanda, bonobos in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and chimpanzees in Uganda and Tanzania. In his work, he addresses questions about ape social behavior and communication. He is an editor of *Advances in the Study of Behavior* and on the editorial boards of the *International Journal of Primatology* and *Primates*.

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