



Brown Bag Seminar

Wednesday 18 October 2017, 12.30 p.m.

Center for Research & Studies (CRS)

(Conference Room, Building E)

Prof. Ursula Hess (Humboldt University)

“Mimicry as social regulator”

For the last century, researchers have recurrently been attracted to the study of mimicry - the tendency to imitate the nonverbal behaviors of observed others. To date, several possible functions and underlying processes for this behavior have been proposed, with different views emphasizing different facets of mimicry. In her presentation, Prof. Ursula Hess will discuss different theoretical perspectives of mimicry and its function and present the Emotion Mimicry in Context view, in which she argues that emotion mimicry is based on the interpretation of signals as emotional intentions or goals in a specific context. This view takes into account the relationship between observer and expresser, and suggests that emotion mimicry functions as social regulator.

Prof. Ursula Hess received her Ph.D. at Dartmouth College in 1989. Since 2010 she is Professor at Humboldt-University, Berlin. She is author or co-author for over one hundred papers in peer refereed journals. Her research program is centered on the communication of emotions. In particular, on the social factors that influence this process such as gender and intergroup relations.

Brown Bag Seminars at the CRS aim to create an informal atmosphere for researchers to present their on-going research, stimulate cross-disciplinary dialogue, generate questions, and possibly some good answers. Attendees can bring their own light lunch.