COGS171GS: Mirror Neuron System and Social Cognition  
MTuWTH 9:00 am-1:00 pm  
Summer 2019 Sydney, Australia  

Instructor: Jaime A. Pineda, Ph.D. 
pineda@cogsci.ucsd.edu 
858-337-1902  
Office Hours: TBD  

This class will examine the neuroanatomy, physiology, and functional correlates of the human mirror neuron system and its putative role in social cognition, e.g., action understanding, empathy, and theory of mind. We will examine the developmental, neuroimaging, electrophysiological, as well as clinical evidence for and against this hypothesis.  

All students will:  
1. Write one critical review or “thought” essay every week based on the required readings that week. Each essay is one page maximum. See class website (or ask instructor) for a sample of a critical review. Essays are due on Monday of the assigned week - for a total of 4 essays (50%). No essay due on Week 5.  
2. Take the final (50%).  

Class website is on TritonED. PDF versions of each of the assigned articles will be on the class website for students to download.  

Week 1 8/6-8/10 The Beginning: Ontogeny and Phylogeny of Mirror Neurons  

Featherdale Wildlife Park - Wed July 5th 8am (all day)  

Week 2 8/13-8/17 Unifying Social Cognition  
Lyons, D. E. The rational continuum of human imitation  

Sydney Harbour National Park - Wed July 12th 2-5 pm  

Week 3 8/20-8/24 Mirror Neurons, Language, and Interpersonal Relationships  

Guest Lecturer: Professor Mark Williams, Macquarie University - Tuesday July 18th
Australian Museum - Wednesday July 19th 2-5 pm
Discovery Centre - Friday July 21st TBA

Week 4  8/27-8/31  Extending the Definition of Mirroring: Empathy and the Aesthetic Experience

Pineda, J. A. et al., The language and structure of social cognition: An integrative process of ‘becoming’ the other. In L. Stevens and C. Woodruff (Eds.), Exploring the Neuroscience of Empathy, Compassion, and Self-Compassion, 2017.

Justice and Police Museum  Wednesday July 26th 3:30-5 pm

Week 5  9/3-9/7  Disorders of Mirroring and Alternative Views


Brisbane trip  Tuesday August 1st (3 days)
1. Museum of Brisbane - Tuesday August 1 (afternoon)
2. University of Queensland - Wednesday August 2 (morning)
3. Gallery of Modern Art (GoMa) - Wednesday August 2 (afternoon)
4. Queensland Art Gallery - Thursday August 3 (morning)

FINAL on Friday September 7th in class (morning)

Farewell Dinner - Friday September 7th (evening)