

## **Science in Culture Research Grants – Project Summaries**

**Rethinking mind and meaning: A case study from a co-disciplinary approach** led by Dr Juan-Carlos Gomez, School of Psychology and Neuroscience at University of St Andrews awarded £197,041.

Project Summary:

Understanding thought and communication in animals and non-verbal human infants perplexes linguists, philosophers, psychologists and biologists. This project will bring together these researchers to consider how we might progress our understanding of what thought is, the distinctions between human and animal minds, and the relation between thinking and communicating about unobservable things. The project will include experiments and work with the Living Links Centre at Edinburgh Zoo to engage with school children and the public.

**Sense of agency and responsibility: integrating legal and neurocognitive accounts** led by Professor Patrick Haggard, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London awarded £172,357.

Project Summary:

Our legal systems generally view individuals as having control over their actions. Yet, expanding scientific knowledge suggests that an individual's actions are the result of brain processes that are independent of consciousness. This tension has great implications for criminal law as well as our understanding of ourselves. The study will include experiments which assess agency and interdisciplinary work with neuroscientists, legal experts, and philosophers.