The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

Attention in Early Infancy

Date: February 16, 2011 (Wednesday)
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 624, Knowles Building, HKU
Speaker: Dr. Merideth Gattis
Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University

Abstract:

Studies of infant attention suggest a paradox: Although infants are able to disengage attention from a visual stimulus from around 2 or 3 months, they do not follow the shifts of attention displayed by their social partners until late in the first year. I will present the results of two longitudinal studies investigating attentional abilities in early infancy. In doing so, I will evaluate i) whether observed infant abilities demonstrate evidence of the ability to follow the attentional focus of other people and ii) how early attentional abilities are related to the emergence of social cognition.

[Dr. Merideth received her PhD in Cognitive Psychology at UCLA and post-doctoral training at Max Planck Institute for Psychological Research in Munich, Germany. She taught at the University of Sheffield and is now a Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University. Her research focuses on social and spatial cognition.]