第17回 MEE SEMINAR

MATHEMATICAL ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION

2010年2月23日(火) 14：40～16：10

明治大学生田キャンパス第二校舎A館：A207

小田急小田原線　「生田駅」から徒歩10分
又は「向ケ丘遊園」駅北口から「明治大学正門前」行きバスで10分終点下車
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February 23, 2010, 14:40～16:10　　Meiji Univ, Ikuta campus A207

Evolution of learning abilities

Wataru Nakahashi

(Meiji University)

Abstract:

As is well known, the enlargement of the brain was achieved in genus Homo, and the improvement of (individual and social) learning abilities may be one of the reasons behind it. For example, more complex technologies (e.g., stone tools, bone tools, fire) emerged as the brain of genus Homo grew, and such technologies may not have been obtained innately but learned individually and socially. However, the reason the human acquired such high learning abilities (large brain) is uncertain. It is sometimes argued that bipedalism had caused the enlargement of the brain; however, the brain only started to grow (genus Homo emerged) a few million years after the advent of bipedalism. As such, bipedalism cannot be cited as the necessary and sufficient condition for the brain to enlarge. What brought on the enlargement of the brain (evolution of high learning ability)? In this talk, I will discuss this problem by analyzing a mathematical model to suggest that African climate change some 2-3 million years ago might have caused the improvement of learning abilities in genus Homo.

参加自由です。皆様のお越しをお待ちしております。

MEEセミナー世話人：若野友一郎 <joe@math.meiji.ac.jp>
中橋渉 <n_wataru@isc.meiji.ac.jp>