



# The origins of numerical abilities

Scientific discussion meeting  
Part of the Royal Society scientific programme

Organised by Professor Brian Butterworth FBA,  
Professor Charles Gallistel and Professor Giorgio Vallortigara

20 – 21 February 2017

**The Royal Society**

6 – 9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG

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# The origins of numerical abilities



## Above

Chickens show numerical abilities.

## Front

Ayumu chimpanzee touching from 1 – 9.  
Credit: Tetsuro Matsuzawa

The Royal Society scientific programme connects scientists from around the world in discussions which influence their field and inspire future research opportunities.

## Synopsis

Humans possess numerical abilities and have invented cultural tools to use them efficiently; but many other creatures, from insects to primates, have in the past decade been found to possess numerical abilities, possibly descended from a common ancestral form. Therefore, when we acquire numerical competence, for example in school, we build upon a specific inherited cognitive foundation.

## Speakers and Chairs

Professor Sarah Benson-Amram, Dr Rosa Rugani, Professor Elizabeth Brannon, Dr Christian Agrillo, Professor Gary Rose, Professor Lars Chittka, Professor Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Professor Stanislas Dehaene, Dr Andreas Nieder, Professor Rochel Gelman, Professor Francesco d'Errico, Professor Marcus Giaquinto.

## Registration

This meeting is intended for researchers in relevant fields and is free to attend, but advance registration is essential.

Online registration and programme information can be found at [royalsociety.org/events/for-scientists](http://royalsociety.org/events/for-scientists)



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