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**EEG and Empathy:**
*Mu and Beta Correlates of Simulation and Perspective-Taking*

**August 2, 2017, 03:00 pm, lecture hall G
Psychologicum, Liebiggasse 5, 1010 Vienna**

The Social and Cognitive EEG lab investigates the brain electrical correlates of empathy and compassion. Primarily using mu suppression, loosely correlated with mirror neuron function, we have found correlations with self-reported sub-components of empathy - self-other discrimination, perspective-taking and personal distress. Surprisingly, the amount of mu suppression when observing other individuals is negatively related to the observer's dispositional perspective-taking. However, a positive relationship emerges from correlations of perspective-taking with self-other differences in mu suppression, consistent with the claim that too much mu suppression impairs perspective-taking while sizeable differences between self-related and other-related mu suppression allows the observer to understanding another person's perspective but also differentiate that perspective from her own. I will discuss new research from our lab and focus on what such data allow us to conclude about empathy and how it can be distinguished from compassion.