INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ETHOLOGY «DANIEL MAINARDI»

45th Course: SEX DIFFERENCES, DIMORPHISMS, DIVERGENCES: IMPACT ON BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

ERICE-SICILY: 20 – 25 MAY 2019

Sponsored by: Italian Ministry of Education, University and Scientific Research • Sicilian Regional Government

PROGRAMME AND LECTURERS

The Erice Center for Scientific Culture and The International School of Ethology “Daniele Mainardi”
• STEFANO PARMIGIANI, University of Parma, IT

Introduction to the Course
• M. McCARTHY, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, US
• P. PALANZA, University of Parma, IT

Evolution of antisogamy, sexual selection and sexual conflict
• A. PILASTRO, University of Padova, IT

Sex differences in the songbird brain: Hormone plasticity and behavior
• G. BALL, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, US

Human gender development
• M. HINES, University of Cambridge, UK

Rethinking sex and the brain: from dimorphism to mosaic
• D. JOEL, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, IL

Sex partner preference in animals and humans
• J. BALTHAZART, University of Liège, BE

‘The two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery’ (Eph 5:31b-32a)
• P. FRIGERIO, Arcidiocesi di Milano, Teologia, Milano, IT

Sex differences and similarities in the neurobiology of pairing bonding
• L. YOUNG, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, US

Sex differences in stress regulation of arousal and cognition
• D. BANGASSER, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, US

Sex differences in stress regulation of arousal and cognition
• M. McCARTHY, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, US

Sex differences in kisspeptin expression: A role in sexual differentiation
• C. ROSSELLI, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, US

Sex differences caused by sex chromosome genes
• A.P. ARNOLD, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, US

Regulation and 3 D structure of the X chromosome and impact on sex chromosome disorders
• C. DISTECHE, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, US

Influence of sex and age on pain perception and morphine action
• A. MURPHY, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, US

Mechanisms underlying increased anxiety and cognitive decline induced by ovarian hormone loss
• K. SANDBERG, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, US

POETIC TOUCH

According to legend, Erice, son of Venus and Neptune, founded a small town on top of a mountain (750 metres above sea level) more than three thousand years ago. The founder of modern history — i.e. the recording of events in a methodic and chronological sequence as they really happened without reference to mythical causes — the great Thucydides (~500 B.C.), writing about events connected with the conquest of Troy (1183 B.C.) said: “After the fall of Troy some Trojans on their escape from the Achaeans arrived in Sicily by boat and as they settled near the border with the Sicanians all together they were named Elymii: their towns were Segesta and Erice.” This inspired Virgil to describe the arrival of the Trojan royal family in Erice and the burial of Anchise, by his son Enea, on the coast below Erice. Homer (~1000 B.C.), Theocritus (~300 B.C.), Polybios (~200 B.C.), Virgil (~50 B.C.), Horace (~20 B.C.), and others have celebrated this magnificent spot in Sicily in their poems. During seven centuries (XIII–XIX) the town of Erice was under the leadership of a local oligarchy, whose wisdom assured a long period of cultural development and economic prosperity which in turn gave rise to the many churches, monasteries and private palaces which you see today. In Erice you can admire the Castle of Venus, the Cyclopean Walls (~800 B.C.) and the Gothic Cathedral (~1300 A.D.). Erice is at present a mixture of ancient and medieval architecture. Other masterpieces of ancient civilization are to be found in the neighbourhood: at Motya (Phoenician), Segesta (Elymian), and Selinunte (Greek). On the Aegadian Islands — theatre of the decisive naval battle of the first Punic War (264-241 B.C.) — suggestive megalithic and paleolithic vestiges are still visible: the grottoes of Favignan, the carvings and murals of Levanzo. Splendid beaches are to be found at San Vito Lo Capo, Scopello, and Cournino, and a wild and rocky coast around Monte Cofano: all at less than one hour’s drive from Erice.

M. McCARTHY – P. PALANZA – S. PARMIGIANI
DIRECTORS OF THE COURSE

S. PARMIGIANI
DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL

A. ZICCHI
PRESIDENT EMFSC