

## Call for Papers

### Honest Signalling: from Microbes to Humans

#### Conference

14-15 September, 2023

Budapest, Centre for Social Sciences

**Organizers: Szabolcs Számadó, Sarah Zala, István Zachár, Károly Takács**

<https://recens.tk.hu/honest-signalling-from-microbes-to-humans-conference>

Deadline for abstract submissions: 30 June, 2023

#### ***Keynote speakers:***

[Dustin J. Penn](#)

[Martin Lang](#)

[Lutz Fromhage](#)

[Valerio Capraro](#)

#### *Aim of the Conference:*

Why and how humans and other species communicate honestly has fascinated scientists and layman for centuries. Communication is the glue that connects individuals in group-living animals, and it is essential for the organization and maintenance of human societies. While the importance of communication is clear, one of the central problems in the biological and social sciences is explaining the evolution and maintenance of honest communication. Conflict of interest is extremely widespread, even among bacteria, so why is deception not more common, especially in species lacking sophisticated control mechanisms unlike humans? The handicap principle was once widely assumed to provide a general explanation to why honest signalling may exist, attributing it to the

high cost of honesty. However, since this idea has been shown to be fallacious, as honest signals need not be costly, it is time to find alternative explanations – and perhaps even general principles for honest signalling. This is a timely topic for humanity, given the increasing problems created by the spread of misinformation and disinformation through modern media, and will surely become even more important with recent improvements in artificial intelligence.

Our goal with this conference is to integrate scientific theories and fields of different domains to build a new foundation to explain emergent honest communication. For this end, we will bring together experts from different fields ranging from biology, anthropology, economics to sociology, and to facilitate discussions of the proximate mechanisms and evolutionary functions of honest signalling from microbes to humans.

*Submissions:*

If you are interested in presenting, please send a title and an abstract of no more than one page to the conference organizers before the deadline of 30 June, 2023. E-mail: [szamado.szabolcs@tk.hu](mailto:szamado.szabolcs@tk.hu) and [freigang.istvan@tk.hu](mailto:freigang.istvan@tk.hu) (administrative contact)

*Important dates:*

Abstract submission deadline: 30 June, 2023

Acceptance decisions by 10 July, 2023

Registration by e-mail for presenters: 24 July, 2023

Finalization of the program: 31 July, 2023

Conference date: 14-15 September, 2023

There is no registration fee, but presenters should confirm their participation by e-mail until 24 July, 2023.