



99th KUASS

*Kyoto University African Studies Seminar*  
12th Colloquium of Natural History of  
Landscape Formation

## “The Emergence of Property Concerns”



November 16, 2021,  
17:00 – 19:00 (JST)



Online (Zoom) For participation, please contact us.  
caas@jamba.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp



**Dr. Federico Rossano**  
(University of California, San Diego)

All human societies care about ownership of at least some kinds of things (Brown, 1991; Hann, 1998), yet young children struggle to understand property and come only gradually to an understanding of ownership and how it may be legitimately transferred. Little is known about non-human primates understanding of property, in that they appear to have a sense of possession and will fight to protect the food that is in their physical control (Kummer & Cords, 1991; Sigg & Falett, 1985), but there is currently no evidence that they have any sense of ownership (i.e., they would respect others’ property even when they are absent) (Brosnan, 2011). In this talk I present a series of cross-cultural studies on young children (3-8) investigating their understanding of (i) under which conditions who owns what ( “condition of ownership” rules), and (ii) what implications (rights, commitments entitlements, etc.) come from owning objects ( “implication of ownership” rules). I will present data collected in the USA, Germany, Namibia, Kenya and Argentina and some ongoing work we are conducting in India. I will then present some novel studies on non-human primates investigating their tendency to respect other individuals’ properties and to protest when their property is violated. By comparing the results on human children and non-human primates, I will show that ownership concerns are uniquely human and develop early in ontogeny.



Jamba!



CAAS since 1986

**THE CENTER FOR  
AFRICAN AREA STUDIES  
KYOTO UNIVERSITY**

46 Yoshida-Shimoadachi, Sakyo, Kyoto, 606-8501  
Inamori Foundation Memorial Hall, Kyoto  
University

TEL: +81-75-753-7800 / 7803  
FAX: +81-75-753-7810 / 9191

<https://www.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/>