

From tiny to giant eyes: the visual reality of animals

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Animal eyes range in size from fractions of a millimetre to as large as a basketball. They serve a multitude of different visual tasks, and they do it under extremely varying light conditions, from bright sunlight to starlight or the darkness of the deep sea. The visual reality that we experience is specifically human. Other animals live in different visual realities. Some see in the ultra violet, some see colour with more than three channels, and some see the plane of polarisation. Different species see different amounts of detail and contrast, and they do it with very different time resolution. The talk will take you on a guided tour through the animal kingdom and let you peep into the visual world of diverse animal species from simple to advanced.