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Christian Keyzers is French and German and studied psychology and biology in Germany and the US before making his PhD in neuroscience in St Andrews with David Perrett. In 2000 he joined the team of Giacomo Rizzolatti as a postdoc in Parma (Italy) and showed that mirror neurons respond to both the sound and the sight of actions, a discovery that became one of the most cited neuroscience papers. He then moved to become an assistant professor in the Netherlands, and his independent work led to the discovery that the notion of mirror neurons extends from the motor system to the limbic and tactile system, seeding a flourishing field of research on the neural basis of empathy. Since 2010, he leads the Social Brain Lab at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience and is full professor for social neuroscience at the University of Amsterdam. He is ranked amongst the top 1% most influential scientists based on citations (>18'000 citations, h=53). He obtained several prestigious grants (e.g. VIDI, VICI, Marie Curie Excellence Grant, ERC), is an editorial board member of key journals in the field (SCAN, Social Neuroscience, Phil. Trans. B) and is a member of both the Young Academy of Europe and the Academia Europaea. His passion for science dissemination led him to write the award-winning book *The Empathic Brain*.