

Dr. Ramunė Dirvanskienė

PhD in Neuropsychology. A graduate of the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), she acquired her professional experience at the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic.

Dr. Ramunė Dirvanskienė is an eager promoter of neuroscience. She is an author of *Kaip veikia smegenys?* (Eng. *How Does the Brain* *Work*?) and has created and runs a web portal *neuropaskaitos.lt*.

Ramunė works at the Institute of Psychology at the Vilnius University.

The Social Brain – The Neuroscience of Communication

**What is happening in our brain when we communicate? Why is social contact so important for us as a species, unlike most of other animals?**

The presentation overviews the topics related both to the social sciences and neuroscience – how various experiences (especially, in early childhood) shape cognitive functions (attention, language comprehension, construction, and an ability to think) and social skills (empathy, self-observation, and self-regulation).

The key idea: our brain has developed as a social organ, and a lack of communication (for example, live communication is more and more often replaced by looking at screens and monitors) has a negative effect on the above-mentioned functions of the brain.