
Preface

This book owes its origin to a remarkable coincidence. In October 2012 Luis Puelles (LP) and I (RN) decided to organize and realize a highly selective two-person conference. Its aims were twofold: (1) to discuss the ‘state of the art’ in developmental and comparative neuromorphology, our fields of interest, and (2) to look into the possibility of preparing an elementary overview of recent developments in these fields. At the same time, one of us (RN) was invited to participate in a neuroscience course for a group of talented students in the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, involving a series of introductory lectures as well as dissections of human brains. We (LP and RN) immediately interpreted this invitation as a unique opportunity to realize our aims. An outline of the lectures to be delivered was forwarded to Leipzig and found approval by Prof. Dr. Robert Turner and Dr. Stephan Geyer, the organizers of the course.

The lectures, illustrated with Powerpoint slides and delivered during March 19–21, 2013, were well received, and Prof. Turner spontaneously proposed that his Institute would take the initiative to publish them in their entirety. This offer, which perfectly matched our original intentions (see above), was gratefully accepted, but the transformation of the lecture notes and transcripts (see below) into the final text (the present course) turned out to be much more complex and laborious than anticipated, hence the relatively long time interval between the presentation of these lectures and their appearance in print. Afterwards, the mediation of Professor Turner and his Institute in the publication of the book appeared to be unnecessary, because Springer-Verlag was found willing to publish the work.

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In concluding this preamble, the invaluable moral and practical support of Mrs. Suzanne Bakker M Sc. in all phases of this project is gratefully acknowledged and finally, we extend our most sincere thanks to our publisher, Springer-Verlag, and their staff—especially Dr. Andrea Pillmann, Dr. Jutta Lindenborn and Mr. Alexander Subbareddy—for their kind help during the production of this book.

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