Over the last fifteen years **Márta Gácsi** has conducted research on dog-human interactions at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and in the Comparative Ethology Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Her field of study has been the ethological analysis of dog-human relationship and the role of domestication in dogs' specific socio-cognitive capacities. She received her PhD in ethology at Eötvös Loránd University. Between 2007 and 2012 she participated in the research in the framework of the LIREC EU project aiming to develop ground research that will help and promote the building of artificial companions. She is currently Res. Assoc. Prof. at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and her major research interest is the application of dogs' interspecific social capacities and behaviours as a model for designing more "social" service robots. So far, when designing robot interaction, mainly ergonomic and psychological aspects had been taken into consideration to form the human–system relationship. Her group has played a major role in providing scientific evidence that dog–human interactions provide a promising model system to study the emergence of social competence. She is one of the founders of the Dogs for Humans Association in Hungary, developing and utilizing ethologically sound methods for cooperating with assistance dogs. Her experiments are designed to allow the new generation of assistance robots to use ethologically based behaviours, analogous to those displayed by dogs for successful affective communication.