

# The Evolution of Language: Bridging the natural and cognitive sciences

Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language Evolution (ISLE)  
University of Zurich

## Inaugural Workshop program

### Day 1: Monday, 4 March 2019

#### Location

University of Zurich main building KOL, [Rämistrasse 71, Zurich](#)  
Room [KOL-G-217](#)

08h15 – 08h40	Registration
08h45 – 08h55	Welcome from the President of the University
08h55 – 09h15	Introduction
09h15 – 10h15	<b>Keynote: Susan Goldin-Meadow</b> What small data can tell us about the resilience of language that big data can't
10h15 – 10h45	Coffee break
10h45 – 12h45	<b>Paper session 1</b> (details see below) Chair: Carel van Schaik
12h45 – 14h00	Lunch
14h00 – 16h00	<b>Paper session 2</b> (details see below) Chair: Klaus Zuberbühler
16h00 – 16h30	Coffee break
16h30 – 17h30	<b>Paper session 3</b> (details see below) Chair: Martin Meyer
17h30 – 18h30	<b>Keynote: Morten Christiansen</b> Language Acquisition as Skill Learning
19h30 – 22h00	Workshop Dinner @ <a href="#">Linde Oberstrass</a>

**Paper session 1**Monday, 4 March 2019 (10h45 – 12h45), Room [KOL-G-217](#)

Chair: Carel van Schaik

- 10h45 – 11h15      **The evolution of the primate larynx**  
Dunn JC, Bowling DL, Garcia M, Smaers J, Kerney M, Stewart A, Hanke G, Kitchener A, Handschuhe S, Degg S, Gumpenberger M & Fitch WTS
- 11h15 – 11h45      **A biologically grounded aerodynamic bias has created global sound patterns in speech**  
Everett C
- 11h45 – 12h15      **Gravettian hand stencils as sign language formatives**  
Etxepare R & Irurtzun A
- 12h15 – 12h45      **Language evolution and the cerebellum**  
Barton R

**Paper session 2**Monday, 4 March 2019 (14h00 – 16h00), Room [KOL-G-217](#)

Chair: Klaus Zuberbühler

- 14h00 – 14h30      **Finding structure in continuous signals to understand evolution of speech**  
de Boer B, Jadoul Y & Van Soom M
- 14h30 – 15h00      **Chestnut-crowned babblers construct calls from meaningless, shared building blocks**  
Engesser S, Holub JL, O'Neill LG, Russell AF & Townsend SW
- 15h00 – 15h30      **Testing Processes of Semantic Diversification in Primates**  
Thouzeau V, Dezechache G, Dunbar E, Schlenker P, Chemla E & Ryder R
- 15h30 – 16h00      **Probing the evolutionary origins of the agent preference in human language**  
Sauppe S & Bickel B

**Paper session 3**Monday, 4 March 2019 (16h30 – 17h30), Room [KOL-G-217](#)

Chair: Martin Meyer

- 16h30 – 17h00      **Vocal communication of emotion: A biologically universal code underpinning language evolution**  
Filippi P
- 17h00 – 17h30      **Human screams' roughness and pitch synergistically and simultaneously contribute to trigger efficient neural and behavioral responses**  
Arnal LH, Mégevand P & Giraud AL

# The Evolution of Language: Bridging the natural and cognitive sciences

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## Inaugural Workshop program

### Day 2: Tuesday, 5 March 2019

#### Location

University of Zurich RAA building, [Rämistrasse 59, Zurich](#)  
Room [RAA-G-01](#)

The poster session will take place at the *Lichthof* (ground floor) of the same RAA building.

08h15 – 08h25	Registration
08h30 – 09h30	<b>Keynote: Simon Kirby</b> How cultural evolution and self-domestication created structure in language
09h30 – 10h30	<b>Paper session 4</b> (details see below) Chair: Balthasar Bickel
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee break
11h00 – 13h00	<b>Paper session 5</b> (details see below) Chair: Judith Burkart
13h00 – 14h15	Lunch
14h15 – 15h45	<b>Paper session 6</b> (details see below) Chair: Chiara Barbieri
15h45 – 17h00	Coffee with <b>poster session</b> (details see below)
17h00 – 18h00	<b>Keynote: Tecumseh Fitch</b>
18h00 – 18h30	Conclusion

**Paper session 4**Tuesday, 5 March 2019 (09h30 – 10h30), Room [RAA-G-01](#)

Chair: Balthasar Bickel

- 09h30 – 10h00      **Mapping out the evolutionary trajectory of iconicity and combinatorial structure**  
Hofer M, Tenenbaum J & Levy R
- 10h00 – 10h30      **The Sources of Meaning in the Initial Stages of a Natural Language**  
Ergin R & Jackendoff R

**Paper session 5**Tuesday, 5 March 2019 (11h00 – 13h00), Room [RAA-G-01](#)

Chair: Judith Burkart

- 11h00 – 11h30      **Entering and exiting joint actions in great apes: A pragmatic approach to studying language evolution**  
Heesen R, Genty E, Rossano F, Zuberbühler K & Bangerter A
- 11h30 – 12h00      **Cultural variation in quantities of language input directed to infants: A systematic review**  
Cristia A
- 12h00 – 12h30      **Vocal individuality depending on call function in a non-primate mammal**  
Wyman MT, Stauber C, Rauber R & Manser MB
- 12h30 – 13h00      **Language-gene mismatches in global human history**  
Barbieri C, Blasi D, Forkel R, Hammarström H, Wichmann S, Greenhill S, Gray R, Shimizu KK & Bickel B

**Paper session 6**Tuesday, 5 March 2019 (14h15 – 15h45), Room [RAA-G-01](#)

Chair: Chiara Barbieri

- 14h15 – 14h45      **The first evolutionary step towards human language and culture**  
Jon-And A, Lind J, Ghirlanda S & Enquist M
- 14h45 – 15h15      **A hypothesis concerning how the evolution of prosociality impacted vocal learning**  
Martins PT, O'Rourke T, Andirkó A, Sturm S & Boeckx C
- 15h15 – 15h45      **The evolution of language families is shaped by the environment beyond neutral drift**  
Bentz C, Dediu D, Verkerk A & Jäger G

**Poster session**

Tuesday, 5 March 2019 (15h45 – 17h00), [RAA Lichthof](#) (ground floor)

**Language-readiness: Descent, modification, and further modification**

Andirkó A, O'Rourke T, Morianos J & Boeckx C

**Gricean animal communication and niche construction**

Burlak S

**How social complexity can favour call diversification**

Crockford C

**Thought for Food: Intentional communication between wild bonnet macaques and humans**

Deshpande A, Gupta S & Sinha A

**Transitions of carrying roles of gestures and vocalization during the early evolution of language**

Fröhlich M, Sievers C, Townsend SW, Gruber T and van Schaik CP

**Modelling lexical interactions in diachronic corpora**

Karjus A, Blythe RA, Kirby S & Smith K

**Investigating the conditions allowing for sign language persistence**

Mudd K & de Boer B

**Language contact, language evolution, and flexible constituent order**

Namboodiripad S

**Idiosyncratic vocal sequences in wild bonobos**

Neadle D, Dahl C, Zuberbühler K & Clay Z

**The Origin of Pointing: Evidence for the Touch Hypothesis**

O'Madagain C, Kachel G & Strickland B

**Input variability promotes the emergence of linguistic structure**

Raviv L, Meyer A & Lev-Ari S

**CHIELD: The Causal Hypotheses in Evolutionary Linguistics Database**

Roberts SG

**Language Input in a small-scale society: Estimations from daylong recordings in a Tsimane' village**

Scaff C, Stieglitz J, Casillas M & Cristia A

**Effects of Compositionality, Number of Grammatical Distinctions and L1 on L2 Learning Difficulty and Morphological Simplification**

Semenuks A et al.

**The role of redundant marking in language learning**

Tal S & Arnon I

**Vocal accommodation and pair bonds in common marmosets**

Zürcher Y & Burkart JM