

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE EVOLUTION



PROTOLANG 2

the initial stages of the evolution of the language faculty

19-21 SEPTEMBER 2011, TORUŃ

www.protolang.umk.pl

First circular and call for papers

Protolang is a biennial conference organised by the Department of English, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń. One of the primary goals of this conference is bringing together researchers representing a variety of areas in order to gain a multidisciplinary perspective on the range of currently available evidence relevant to early language evolution. The focus of the conference is on the early stages of the emergence of symbolic, language-like communication in hominids. The conference will reflect the inherently interdisciplinary nature of research into the evolution of language. We invite papers from a wide range of subjects related to language evolution, including:

- * general evolutionary theory,
- * evolutionary psychology,
- * comparative psychology
- * pleistocene archaeology,
- * paleoanthropology,
- * genetics of language disorders,
- * cultural anthropology,
- * speech physiology,
- * gesture studies,
- * neuroscience of language,
- * computational modelling,
- * primatology,
- * animal cognition,
- * animal communication.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

John Gowlett

(University of Liverpool; *Lucy to Language* British Academy Project)

"Language beginnings – a view from the early archaeological record"

Juliane Kaminski

(Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology)

"Do dogs get the point"

Adam Kendon

(Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania)

"An evolutionary approach to explaining why patterned visible bodily action commonly occurs when people speak"

Katie Slocombe

(Department of Psychology, University of York)

"Vocal communication in chimpanzees"

SUBMISSION

<http://www.protolang.umk.pl/submission>

Please refer to the website for the specific instructions and guidelines.

Submissions in the form of long abstracts (2 pages) should be emailed to: protolang@umk.pl no later than **30th May 2011**.

Accepted submissions will be published in the form of an e-book included in the conference pack. The talks will have the format of approximately 20 minutes of presentation + 10 minutes for discussion.

Selected papers will be included in the proceedings, which will be published by an international publishing house.

REGISTRATION

Please refer to the website for the details of payment.

<http://www.protolang.umk.pl/submission>

For international participants, the conference fee is **120€** (students: **80€**). Conference dinner is **25€**.

For participants from Poland, the conference fee is **300zł** (students: **150zł**). Bankiet: **80zł**

Conference fee covers the costs of participation, refreshments during breaks, and conference materials. It does not include accommodation, meals or conference dinner.

ACCOMMODATION

<http://www.protolang.umk.pl/accommodation> (will be updated closer to the conference)

Accommodation is not provided by the organizers, but please refer to the website for the list of recommended hotels (discounts available).

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission: 30 May 2011

Notifications of acceptance: 01 July 2011

Conference: 19-21 September 2011

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Sławomir Wacewicz

wacewicz [at] umk [dot] pl

Przemysław Żywicznyński

przemek [at] umk [dot] pl

PROTOLANG 1 (2009)

The first Protolang conference took place 21-23.09.2009 in Toruń, with Terrence Deacon (video conference) and Jim Hurford, Katie Slocombe and Jordan Zlatev as keynote speakers. Video recordings of most of the talks as well as other materials are available for download from

<http://www.protolang.umk.pl/2009/index.html>

The proceedings will be published as a special issue of *Theoria et Historia Scientiarum* in 2011.