



Integrating genetic and cultural evolutionary approaches to language

**26 February 2010
Queen Mary, University of London**

This symposium will ask how the diverse and complex languages of today evolved from a non-linguistic ancestral state, encompassing both genetic evolution (of the language faculty) and cultural evolution (of languages themselves). Topics to be addressed include comparative studies of vocal communication in birds, ungulates and primates, the genetic and neurobiological basis of human speech and language, cognitive influences on language evolution, and phylogenetic analyses of language history.

Confirmed speakers:

Mark Pagel (University of Reading)
Tecumseh Fitch (University of Vienna)
Nick Chater (University College London)
Simon Fisher (Oxford University)
Chris Petkov (Newcastle University)
Gabriel Beckers (Max Planck Institute for Ornithology)
Fiona Jordan (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics)
Katie Slocombe (University of York)
Kenny Smith (Northumbria University)
Dan Dediu (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics)

For more details please contact the organisers, Alan McElligott (a.g.mcelligott@qmul.ac.uk) or Alex Mesoudi (a.mesoudi@qmul.ac.uk)