

Call for papers for a special issue of the *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* on the evolution of language

In 1990 Pinker and Bloom published a now famous article in which they argued the adaptationist case that language evolved for the purposes of communication. Their paper triggered a resurgence of interest in the origins and evolution of language that remains ongoing. To mark its 20th anniversary, the *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* will publish a special issue in 2010 on the evolution of language.

The aims of the special issue are to further explore what the adaptationist approach can tell us about language, broadly conceived, and to identify key research questions for the future. Substantive contributions from any relevant discipline are welcome. Papers that present new empirical data or formal (i.e. mathematical or computational) theoretical contributions, and/or which relate findings in evolutionary psychology to issues within linguistics, are particularly encouraged. Papers focused on speculative discussion of selective scenarios are discouraged.

Guest editor: Thom Scott-Phillips

Pinker, S. and Bloom, P. (1990) Natural language and natural selection. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 13(4), p.707-784

Submission instructions and timeline

The deadline for submissions is 31st October. This will not be extended. Manuscripts should be submitted at the *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology's* online submission page, where instructions for manuscript preparation can also be found: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/jep>

Sample papers

Arnold, K. & Zuberbühler, K. (2006). Semantic combinations in primate calls. *Nature*, 441, 303.

Fitch, W. T., & Reby, D. (2001). The descended larynx is not uniquely human. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B*, 268, 1669-1675.

Lachmann, M., Számadó, S. & Bergstrom, C. T. (2001). Cost and conflict in animal signals and human language. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 98(23), 13189-13194

Puts, D. A., Gaulin, S. J. C., & Verdolini, K. (2006). Dominance and the evolution of sexual dimorphism in human voice pitch. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 27(4), 283-296.

Roberts, G. (2008). Language and the freerider problem: An experimental paradigm. *Biological Theory* 3(2), 174-183