EVOLUTION
OF
LANGUAGE
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THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE

Proceedings of the 8th International Conference (EVOLANG8)

Utrecht, Netherlands 14 – 17 April 2010

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Preface

This volume collects the refereed papers and abstracts of the 8th International Conference on the Evolution of Language (EVOLANG 8), held in Utrecht on 14-17 April 2010. Submissions to the conference were solicited in two forms, papers and abstracts, and this is reflected in the structure of this volume.

The biennial EVOLANG conference is characterised by an invigorating, multi-disciplinary approach to the origins and evolution of human language, and brings together researchers from many fields including anthropology, archaeology, artificial life, biology, cognitive science, computer science, ethology, genetics, linguistics, neuroscience, palaeontology, primatology, psychology and statistical physics.

The multi-disciplinary nature of the field makes the refereeing process for EVOLANG very challenging, and we are indebted to our panel of reviewers for their very conscientious and valuable efforts. A full list of the reviewers in the panel can be found on the following page. Further thanks are also due to:

- The EVOLANG committee: Angelo Cangelosi, Jean-Louis Dessalles, Tecumseh Fitch, Jim Hurford, Chris Knight and Maggie Tallerman.
- The local organising committee: Rudie Botha (Stellenbosch University, Utrecht University), Bart de Boer (University of Amsterdam), Martin Everaert (Utrecht University), Marieke Schouwstra (Utrecht University), Henriëtte de Swart (Utrecht University), Willem Zuidema (University of Amsterdam)
- The plenary speakers: Stephen Anderson (Yale), Morten Christiansen (Cornell), Terrence Deacon (Berkeley), Peter Gärdenfors (Lund), Marc Hauser (Harvard), Wil Roebroeks (Leiden), Eörs Szathmáry (Budapest), Maggie Tallerman (Newcastle)
- The invited speakers: Ian Barnard (Edinburgh), Robert Berwick (MIT), Rebecca Cann (Hawaii) & Karl Diller (Hawaii), Julia Fischer (Göttingen), Kathleen Gibson (Texas at Houston), Patricia Greenfield (UCLA), Eva Jablonka (Tel Aviv) & Daniel Dor (Tel Aviv), Gerhard Jäger (Tübingen), Constance Scharff (FU Berlin), Ann Senghas (Columbia) & Asli Özyurek (MPI, Nijmegen), Marilyn Vihman (York), Thomas Wynn (Colorado at Colorado Springs) & Frederick Coolidge (Colorado at Colorado Springs)
- Finally, and most importantly, the authors of all the contributions collected here.

Andrew Smith, Marieke Schouwstra, Bart de Boer, Kenny Smith
December 2009
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