

Guidelines

Step 1 (before the first session on 18.10): Research all the apparent “misconceptions” and look for evidence of why they might be wrong. This overview should not take more than 40-50mins.

1. Language is essentially a learned convention
2. How two people without a common language communicate, gives us insight into how language evolved
3. Group selection can explain language evolution
4. Brain-first theories are compatible with naturalism
5. Mutations are the driving force in the evolution of language
6. Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny
7. Evo-Devo is the solution to language evolution
- 8a Epigenetic is the key to language evolution
- 8b. The Baldwin effect is the key to language evolution
9. Trust is needed for language evolution to begin
10. Language developed for thinking and was only later externalized and used for communication
11. Explaining the emergence of language is to explain the emergence of recursion
12. Language-ready brains developed before language itself
13. Standard evolutionary theory cannot explain the evolution of the language faculty
14. Language is an exaptation
15. Phenomenology can explain language evolution
16. The basis of language evolution is self-domestication

Step 2: (before the online session on 20.10) Pick 2-4 misconceptions that you would like to focus on and take some notes on them. This process should not take more than 40-50mins. Even if you have a clear favorite, please chose at least one alternative.

Step 3: Chose your main idea – one of the misconceptions - and write about it. 500 words is a good length. It may be longer as well. The goal is to develop a clearly structured argument. You may include references, such as books and papers but also any type of websites (including articles, blogs, videos etc.). Please send it to me **before the second session on Tuesday 25th of October** and we will discuss them in the writing group on **Thursday 27th of October**.

Please name the file:[number of the misconception] [short title of the misconception] [your name] [Year][month][day]: Example “09-Trust-Aerts-2022-09-28”

Step 4: Every group or person should have a 15 min discussion on **Friday 28th of October** or **Friday 5th of November** with Till and/or Anne on ZOOM. Please contact Anne for scheduling before 27th of October. You have 10 days to develop an exposé - either alone or with people working on the same topic. Please **submit it to the forum before Monday 7th of November**. You will need to comment on at least two exposés in the forum from other participants in the following week.

Step 5: The first author will reduce the number of misconceptions for the paper. If your contribution is cut, you might either join another group or leave the misconception writing group. We will typically give up claims (misconceptions) that are too controversially discussed or which are for other reasons not suitable for the paper. We may end up reducing the number of misconceptions to say 10 or 12. This will also be the point where some people will find out that they are not ready yet to contribute to a scientific paper for a top journal in the field. This will not affect your participation in the Tuesday class.

Step 6: If your exposé is accepted, you will have about 10 days to submit your final version. Till and Anne will provide one-on-one sessions to help. You will also get an honest feedback on your current paper writing skills.

Step 7: Editing process.

Step 8: Submission.

Step 9: Review process. You have to participate in the review process. This is obligatory if you want your name on the paper. Please be aware that review processes begin whenever we get the feedback form the reviewers. You will need to react to the comments of the reviewers concerning your part within few days and coordinate the submission with the first author.

On Tuesdays we will discuss papers. Thursdays will be dedicated to the writing groups.

This misconception project has three functions:

- To make you familiar with the main pitfall of human evolution and language evolution.
- To evaluate your abilities to develop an idea and write about it, so I can make recommendations on how you can efficiently benefit from this course.
- To collectively write a paper.

16 obligatory sessions:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
	18.10		20.10			
	25.10		27.10			
	01.11		03.11			
	08.11		11.11			
	15.11					
	22.11					
	29.11					
	06.12					
	13.12					
	03.01					
	10.01					
	17.01					