

## Preface

This volume collects the refereed papers and abstracts of the 7th International Conference on the Evolution of Language (EVOLANG 7), held in Barcelona on 12-15 March 2008. 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 conscientious and valuable efforts. A full list of 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. A particular debt of gratitude is owed to Jim Hurford, who has once again given generously of his time and expertise in the preparation of the proceedings.
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- The plenary speakers: Derek Bickerton, Rudolf Botha, Camilo José Cela Conde, Francesco d'Errico, Susan Goldin-Meadow, Simon Kirby, Gary Marcus, Fridemann Pulvermüller and Juan Uriagereka.
- Finally, and most importantly, the authors of all the contributions collected here.

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