Fossils of language: What if we were looking in the wrong places?*

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Fossil evidence of sensory-motor systems

- Fossil evidence of the perceptual system: The evidence for vowel perception was used for modern humans to identify and distinguish different vowels. The use of the environment where the initial vowel sounds were heard to develop a phonetic feature that is characteristic of those sounds.
- Fossil evidence of the motor system: The evidence for hand gestures shows that modern humans have the ability to produce different gestures. The use of gestures to communicate and convey information.

The form-function problem

- The function of a particular organic structure (activity of a particular organic structure):
- The activity of a particular organic structure (function) (gives rise to a particular organic structure) (capacity) (order) (effect) (ability) (capability) (power) (strength) (energetic) (effectiveness) (competence) (efficacy).

The ‘form-function’ problem

- Use of feature (a particular form-function)
- Function (capacity to produce a particular activity).

Fossil evidence of computational capabilities

- Archeological remains should be considered as evidence for the computational power of the species.
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Fossil evidence of full language

- Methodological constraints of internal reconstruction:
- The role of language change in the evolution of the language.
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Paleoanthropological evidences

- The search for the remains of the hominid species of language has been limited to the remains of the hominid species of language that have been found in the archaeological record.
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Genetic/molecular evidences

- Specific mutations affecting different kind of genes involved in the regulation of brain development and brain function. The presence of specific mutations in the brain has been linked to specific neural development and function.
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