

Current Issues in Biolinguistics and Evolutionary Linguistics

Overview

Language is a uniquely human biological trait. Other species also have complex communication systems but they are qualitatively different from human language. Biolinguistics, or studies of the design, development, and evolution of this human capacity from a biological perspective, has attracted much attention from many corners of modern cognitive sciences, including linguistics, biology, neuroscience, genetics, ethology, anthropology, archaeology, primatology and psychology, to name a few. In particular, studies of language origins and evolution (evolutionary linguistics, or evolinguistics for short) interface with biolinguistics in an interesting way. The aim of this course is to provide a concise overview of today's biolinguistics and evolinguistics, to discuss some major topics in these fields, and to make suggestions for their further developments.

Participants will learn the theories concerning Biolinguistics, with a specific focus on the evolutionary aspects of syntax, morphology and phonology. The course deals with both conceptual and methodological issues.

Modules	Duration: August 17 – 21, 2022 All lectures and tutorials will be held online.
Who can attend?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ MA/MSc and PhD students of Linguistics and allied disciplines▪ BTech/MTech and PhD students in any discipline, with or without basic knowledge of Linguistics▪ Teachers of Linguistics, Languages, and Literature▪ Corporate Professional working at any Private or Public Organization▪ Post-doc Candidate/ Research Associate working at any University/ College/Institution of India or Abroad in the area of Linguistics or allied disciplines
Fees	The participation fees for taking the course are as follows: Participants from abroad: USD 200 MA/MSc/BTech and PhD students: Rs. 500 Industry/Research Organizations: Rs. 5000 Faculty: Rs. 1000 No accommodation or boarding charges need to be paid as the course will be held online. Participants can attend the sessions from anywhere.

The Faculty



Prof. Koji Fujita is a Professor at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies (Faculty of Integrated Human Studies), at Kyoto University, Japan. His research interests lie in Evolutionary Linguistics, Origin and Evolution of Language, Motor Control Origin of Syntax, and Recursive Syntactic Computation and Merge. Professor Fujita is a world-renowned leading expert in the Biolinguistics and Evolutionary Linguistic research. He has more than 60 papers in refereed international journals, 27 book chapters, and 7 books in his credit.



Dr. Somdev Kar is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, India. His research interests lie in the fields of Phonetics, Phonology (Optimality Theory), Distributed Morphology, NLP, and Evolutionary Linguistics. He earned his PhD degree from Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen (Germany). He is currently engaged in research activities concerning the phonological analysis of a group of Indian languages, using the Optimality Theory framework.

Course Coordinator

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