Possible Projects
LING 496

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I. Language and Music

Patel (2008) is an indispensable guide and should be consulted for any project involving music.

(a.) Timbre and tonogenesis

Tonogenesis refers to the process by which a language comes to have tones as distinctive elements. Dediu (2011), Levinson and Dediu (2010), is a good place to start as is Patel's book.

(b.) Rhythm

Try starting here with this video on Scotch Snaps:

`https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7cG9QIvIWo`

Metrics and speech rates

(c.) Vocal tract and auditory system coevolution

(d.) Evolution of music (compared with the evolution of language; again, see Patel).

II. Brain lateralization, tool use, and handedness

Connections between neural structures, speech, planning and tool use.

III. The Neolithic Revolution Katie Manning is doing really interesting work on this area; check out her work.

(i.) Agriculture

(a.) Cooking and fire

(b.) grains and "grain states"

(c.) Animals

(d.) Zoonautic diseases and contagions
You could look at contagions after the neolithic

(e.) Consequences of urbanization

(ii.) Hunter-gatherers vs. farmers (health consequences; technology)

(iii.) Spread of technology (pottery styles; tools)

(iv.) Lactose tolerance and dairying
see Mark G. Thomas, who has done a prodigious amount of work on the topic.

References

Dediu, D. (2011). Are languages really independent from genes? if not, what would a genetic bias affecting language diversity look like? *Human Biology 83*(2, Special Issue on Integrating Genetic and Cultural Evolutionary Approaches to Language), 279–296.

Levinson, S. C. and D. Dediu (2010). The interplay of genetic and cultural factors in ongoing language evolution. In P. J. Richerson and M. H. Christiansen (Eds.), *Cultural Evolution: Society, Technology, Language, and Religion*, pp. 219–232. The MIT Press.

Patel, A. D. (2008). *Music, Language, and the Brain.* Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.