

# 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=i7cG9QIvIW0>

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.) Zoonotic diseases and contagions

You could look at contagions after the neolithic check out this lecture by Charlotte Roberts

##### (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.