

Comparative turn-taking: A new approach to tackle language origins

Organizers: Fanny Pharisemène Tibesar (ftibesar@uos.de), Simone Pika (spika@uos.de)

Abstract: Human language is characterized by cooperative turn-taking which involves reciprocal and cooperative exchanges of brief and flexible turns that alternate between two or more interactants. Recent studies showed that turn-taking seems to be a universal characteristic across languages and cultures, and also seems to play a role in communicative interactions of nonhuman primates. Levinson thus hypothesized that turn-taking may be an ancient mechanism of the language system, bridging the apparent gap between the articulate human species and their inarticulate primate cousins. Comparing turn-taking abilities between humans and other animals may thus offer crucial insights into the evolutionary roots of turn-taking and factors that facilitated the evolution of cooperative communication and language. However, research on turn-taking abilities of non-human animals and quantitative comparisons of turn-taking skills between humans and non-human animals are still surprisingly rare. Hence, we are hosting this workshop to help draw attention to this fascinating research field, and to discuss and link existing research and findings concerning turn-taking and the evolutionary precursors of human language.

Speaker	Title	Time	Mode of presentation
Simone Pika	Communicative turn-taking in nonhuman primates	13:15 - 13:35	In person
Chloé Mondémé	Turn-taking in interspecies interaction: procedures of sense-making	13:35 - 13:55	Online

Judith Holler	Conversational turn-taking in human multimodal interaction	13:55 - 14:15	Online
Natasha Vanderhoff	Temporally coordinated interactive vocalizations in non-primate mammals, what we know and what's next.	14:15 -14:35	In person
Florence Levrero	Comparative vocal turn-taking across nonhuman primates	14:35 -14:55	Online
Filipa Abreu	Beyond the Phee call: Exploring common marmosets' vocal turn-taking abilities in the wild	14:55 – 15:15	Online
Lise Habib-Dassetto	Studying the structure of Multimodal Interactions: a Methodological perspective	15:15 - 15:35	In person
Fanny Pharisemène Tibesar	Unveiling the origins of human conversational turn-taking: Insights from Cercopithecidae	15:35 – 15:55	In person