

Introducing Embodiment of Language

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The old saying that writing a book is like giving birth to a baby (or an elephant) certainly captures the process of putting this special issue together. But in the end we made it and are happy to present a comprehensive collection that reviews and advances the emerging field of “embodiment of language”.

To say a few words about the genesis of this special issue, we were first approached in September 2011 by a *Biolinguistics* editorial board member with the suggestion to put together a volume based on the ‘Embodied Language’ conference which took place at New College, Oxford University (26–28 September 2011, <http://www.newcollegeembodiedlanguage.com>). We were intrigued by the possibility, least of all because it does offer new ways of probing language in the species, but also because of the top-notch research on mirror neurons coming from the field. We are very excited about presenting some of that research and — through some review articles — its history.

The organizer of that conference, Dr. Robin M. Allott, was kind enough to get things going as guest editor. He invited the participants, and some colleagues beyond, to submit their full-fledged papers to *Biolinguistics* for a full peer-review process. It is then that things went somewhat awry. Not being specialists on the topic ourselves (and the same could be said for most of the reviewers we have on file), we relied on Dr. Allott’s expertise to help us find suitable reviewers. To cut a long story short, we invited a total of 67 colleagues to serve as peer-reviewers for the collection, intending two different reviewers for each submission, of who 42 turned down our request or failed to respond. The entire process took considerably longer than planned, and we had to find a number of last-minute peer-reviewers ourselves as well. If that weren’t enough, Dr. Allott pulled out of his envisioned guest editorship in the finishing stages of the project as well.

But all good things end well. And without further ado, we invite the reader on an enlightening journey through embodied language.

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