



University of
Reading

Public Lecture Series 2010–2011

The evolution of language

Past, present and future

Professor Mark Pagel

School of Biological Sciences

Human language is unique and we have been speaking for around 150,000 years. There are currently around 7,000 different human languages, there have been thousands more in our past, and these languages evolve in a manner like a biological species. Professor Pagel will explore why we alone as a species have language, how we can trace some elements of language back tens of thousands of years, how we agree on the words we use for some things but not others, and what we can expect of language in an increasingly globalised world.

Wednesday 16 March 2011

8.00 pm Palmer Building
Whiteknights

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