

The prehistory of visual arts, music, and language

Keywords: paleolithic music, paleolithic visual arts, musicality, language, faculty of language,

Main Organizer:

Piotr Podlipniak

Department of Musicology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Co-Organizers:

Iwona Sobkowiak-Tabaka

Faculty of Archeology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Larissa Mendoza Straffon

Institute of Psychosocial Science, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen, Norway

Svetlana Kuleshova

Katedra Językoznawstwa Eksperymentalnego, Instytut Językoznawstwa UMK, Toruń,

Abstract:

The origins of music, visual art and language go deep into the human lineage. Yet, only the visual arts have left a material trace in the archaeological record. The earliest evidence of music and speech in prehistory come from instruments and writing respectively, however these inventions are relatively recent and cannot inform us directly about when these behaviours first emerged. Nevertheless, the analysis of prehistoric and cross-cultural musical instruments and visual arts may shed some light on the evolution of human vocal and visual expression. The aim of this special session is to exchange knowledge about recent archeological discoveries and interpretations in the domains of visual arts, music, and language from an interdisciplinary perspective spanning archeology, anthropology, biology, cognitive science, musicology, linguistics, and philosophy.