Call for Papers

The First Biennial Conference on Expression, Language, and Music (ELM)* will be hosted by the Expression, Communication, and Origins of Meaning Research Group (ECOM) at the University of Connecticut and held at The Lyceum in Hartford, Connecticut, May 13-15, 2020. The conference will bring together researchers from linguistics, philosophy, cognitive science, music theory, dance theory, anthropology, and neurobiology with the aim of integrating recent findings and insights from diverse perspectives concerning the significance of expression in music, dance, and language, the importance of systematic structure in these domains, and the interrelations between expressive, musical, and communicative capacities and their relevance for understanding the emergence of language (in ontogeny and phylogeny).

Our invited speakers are:

- Tecumseh Fitch (Cognitive Biology, University of Vienna)
- Kathleen Higgins (Philosophy, University of Texas, Austin)
- Ray Jackendoff (Linguistics, Tufts University)
- Jerrold Levinson (Philosophy, University of Maryland)
- Elizabeth Margulis (Music Cognition, Princeton University)
- Isabelle Peretz (Psychology, University of Montreal)
- David Poeppel (Neuroscience, NYU)
- Ljiljana Progovac (Linguistics, Wayne State University)

We welcome abstracts on any of (but not limited to) the following topics: expression of emotions through speech, gesture, dance, and music, evolution of communication, meaning and structure in language and music, music cognition (including developmental and comparative perspectives), psychology/neuroscience of speech perception/production, philosophy of music, ‘Musical Protolanguage’. Abstracts should be accessible to an interdisciplinary audience that includes researchers who share interests with the conference themes. Preference will be given to abstracts that attempt to connect at least two of the three areas in the conference overarching themes (Expression, Language, Music).

Abstract Guidelines:
- Please upload a PDF version of your abstract. Submissions will be reproduced in color.
- Abstracts should be in letter format (8.5" x 11" - not A4), with 1-inch margins on all sides, and in Arial 11 point font.
- The abstract itself (text) may be no longer than one page; a page containing additional figures, tables, other graphics and/or references may be included as well.
- References should preferably be in the American Psychological Association format, but other formats are acceptable.
- Authors will need to create a 100 word version of their abstract(s) that will be entered in a text box on the final submission page.

TO SUBMIT: HTTPS://EASYCHAIR.ORG/CONFERENCES/?CONF=ELM2020

Anticipated notifications: Feb 15, 2020

*By coincidence, two conferences with the acronym ELM were conceived of at a similar time. If you’re looking for our friends at the other ELM, their conference’s name is Experiments in Linguistic Meaning.