

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Program for Evolutionary Dynamics

Mathematical Modeling and Analysis of Language Diversification

Date: Monday, March 21, 2005

Time: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Location: Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Cronkhite Graduate Center Living Room
6 Ash Street

Organizers: Tandy Warnow (PED), Jay Jasanoff (Department of Linguistics)

Questions related to human evolution—such as where we first originated as a species and how we spread across the globe—have a fundamental appeal and fascination to scientists as well as to the lay public. Some of the most interesting approaches to these questions involve reconstructing evolutionary histories for language families, a problem that involves mathematics, computer science, statistics, and linguistics, as well as drawing insights and inspiration from biology.

This workshop will include four research talks covering some of the recent attempts made to infer the evolutionary history of the Indo-European language family, and will be followed by a panel discussion in which the proposed models and methods will be critiqued by leading historical linguists with respect to data and known history.

Current list of speakers and panelists:

Geoff Nichols (speaker)

Department of Mathematics
Auckland University

Andrew Garrett (speaker)

Department of Linguistics
University of California, Berkeley

Jay Jasanoff (panelist and co-chair)

Department of Linguistics
Harvard University

Brett Kessler (speaker)

Department of Psychology
Washington University

James Matisoff (panelist)

Department of Linguistics
University of California, Berkeley

Donald Ringe (panelist)

Department of Linguistics
University of Pennsylvania

Tandy Warnow (speaker and co-chair)

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Harvard University

For more information, please contact Tandy Warnow at: tandy@cs.utexas.edu

To help us plan for catering, please contact Doreen Barako, PED Program Coordinator,
at the following email address to notify us that you will attend the workshop : doreen_barako@harvard.edu