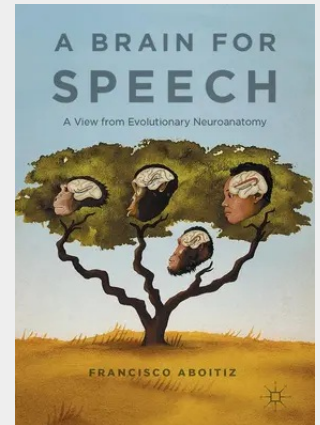


A Brain for Speech

A View from Evolutionary Neuroanatomy

This book discusses evolution of the human brain, the origin of speech and language. It covers past and present perspectives on the contentious issue of the acquisition of the language capacity. Divided into two parts, this insightful work covers several characteristics of the human brain including the language-specific network, the size of the human brain, its lateralization of functions and interhemispheric integration, in particular the phonological loop. Aboitiz argues that it is the phonological loop that allowed us to increase our vocal memory capacity and to generate a shared semantic space that gave rise to modern language. The second part examines the neuroanatomy of the monkey brain, vocal learning birds like parrots, emergent evidence of vocal learning capacities in mammals, mirror neurons, and the ecological and social context in which speech evolved in our early ancestors. This book's interdisciplinary topic will appeal to scholars of psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, biology and history.

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160,49 €

149,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781137540591

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-1-137-54059-1

Verlag: Palgrave Macmillan

Erscheinungstermin: 26.07.2017

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 2017

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 7828 g

Seiten: 505

Format (B x H): 153 x 216 mm

