Record Nr. UNINA9910451473003321 Origins of language [[electronic resource]]: unraveling evolutionary **Titolo** forces / / Nobuo Masataka (ed.) Pubbl/distr/stampa Tokyo,: Springer, 2008 **ISBN** 1-281-75747-0 9786611757472 4-431-79102-7 Edizione [1st ed. 2008.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (163 p.) Altri autori (Persone) MasatakaNobuo <1954-> Disciplina 400 401 599.938 Soggetti Language and languages - Origin Human evolution Anthropological linguistics

Animal communication
Primates - Behavior
Electronic books.

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Nota di contenuto

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

The Gestural Theory of and the Vocal Theory of Language Origins Are Not Incompatible with One Another -- The Gestural Origins of Language -- World-View of Protolanguage Speakers as Inferred from Semantics of Sound Symbolic Words: A Case of Japanese Mimetics -- Japanese Mothers' Use of Specialized Vocabulary in Infant-Directed Speech: Infant-Directed Vocabulary in Japanese -- Short-Term Acoustic Modifications During Dynamic Vocal Interactions in Nonhuman Primates— Implications for Origins of Motherese -- Vocal Learning in Nonhuman Primates: Importance of Vocal Contexts -- The Ontogeny and Phylogeny of Bimodal Primate Vocal Communication -- Understanding the Dynamics of Primate Vocalization and Its Implications for the Evolution of Human Speech -- Implication of the

Human Musical Faculty for Evolution of Language.

Sommario/riassunto

Developments in cognitive science indicate that human and nonhuman primates share a range of behavioral and physiological characteristics that speak to the issue of language origins. This volume has three major themes, woven throughout the chapters. First, it is argued that scientists in animal behavior and anthropology need to move beyond theoretical debate to a more empirically focused and comparative approach to language. Second, those empirical and comparative methods are described, revealing underpinnings of language, some of which are shared by humans and other primates and others of which are unique to humans. New insights are discussed, and several hypotheses emerge concerning the evolutionary forces that led to the "design" of language. Third, evolutionary challenges that led to adaptive changes in communication over time are considered with an eye toward understanding various constraints that channeled the process.