

Robert van Rooij – NIAS Lecture – May 2nd 2006
The evolution of conventional meaning and conversational principles

In this talk I will show how we can use Lewisian signaling games looked upon from an evolutionary perspective to motivate the emergence and selfsustaining force of (i) conventional meanings, (ii) some semantic universals, and (iii) some conversational interpretation strategies. If time allows, I will also discuss why agents are encouraged to communicate although the preferences of speaker and hearer are not allowed.