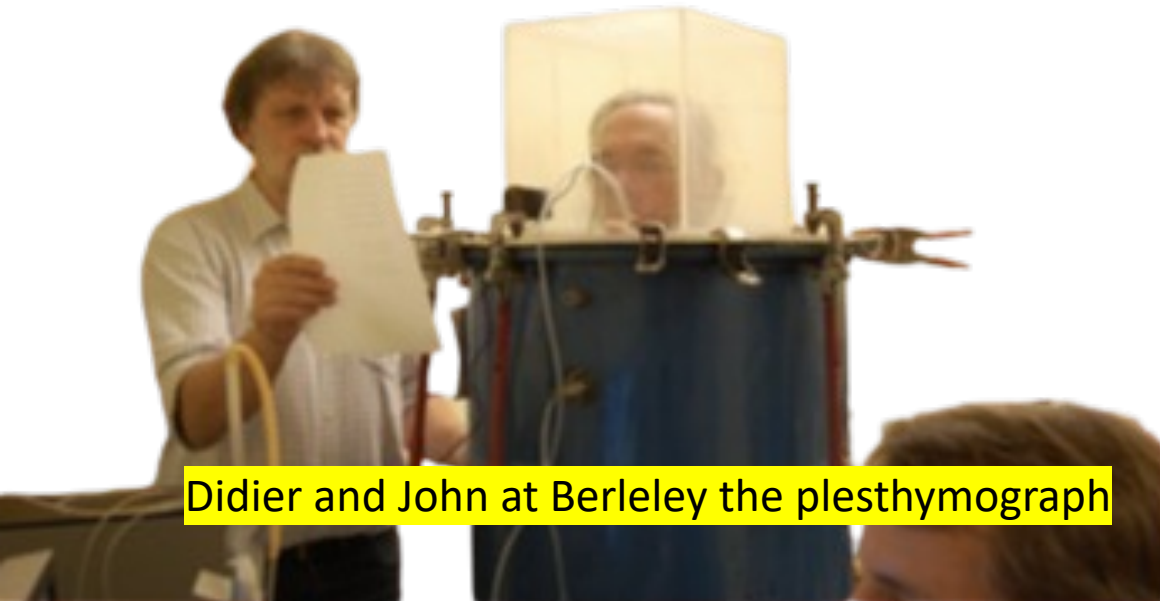


# Experimental phonetics: an interdisciplinary journey through time and space

26 Mai 2023

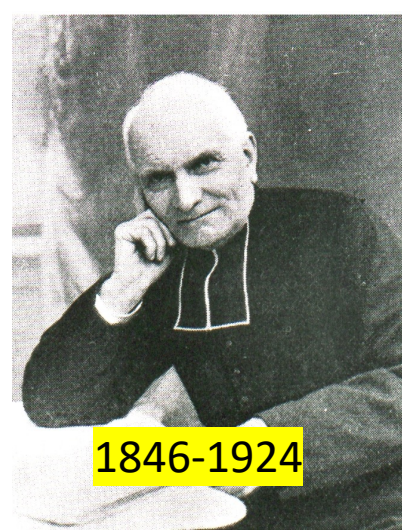
**Jean-Pierre Rousselot,  
John Ohala,  
Didier Demolin  
and experimental phonetics**

Par Jacqueline Vaissière



Sorbonne  
Nouvelle

LABORATOIRE DE PHONETIQUE  
LP  
EFL



1846-1924

Experimental phonetics:

an interdisciplinary research through time and space

Jean-Pierre Rousselot,  
John Ohala,  
Didier Demolin  
Experimental phonetics



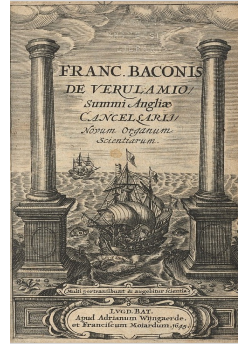
Didier and John





# Before Rousselot

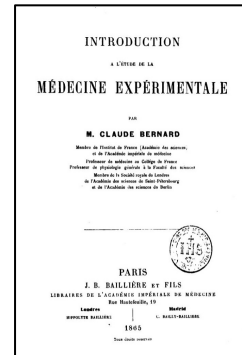
## Experimental method



### Francis Bacon (1620)

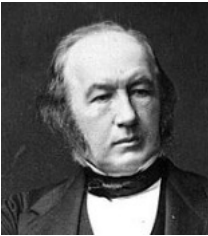
- gave a central place to experimentation for scientific progress,
- is considered as the father of modern empiricism.

## Experimental medicine

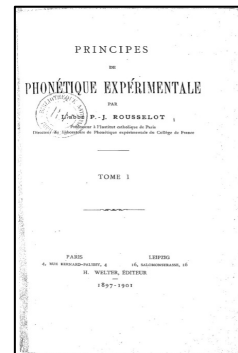


### Claude Bernard (1865)

‘the more complex the science, the more essential it is, in fact, to establish a good experimental standard, so as to secure comparable facts, free from sources of error’.



## Experimental phonetics



**Marey, Rosapelly, Harvet as precursors  
Rouselot as the founder**

# Rousselot



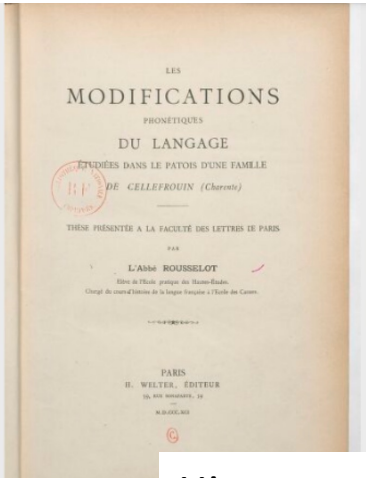
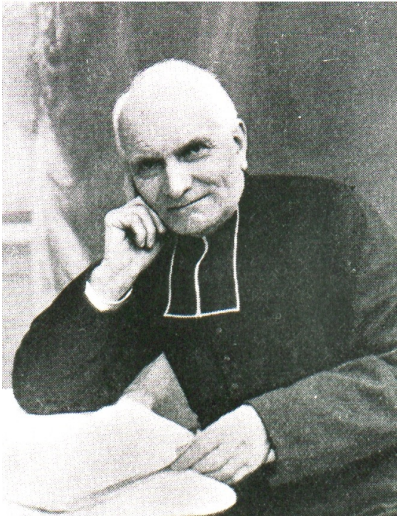
in front of his kymograph

ion privée.

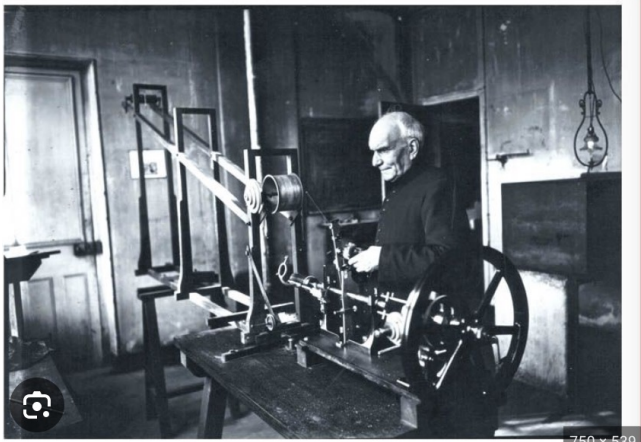
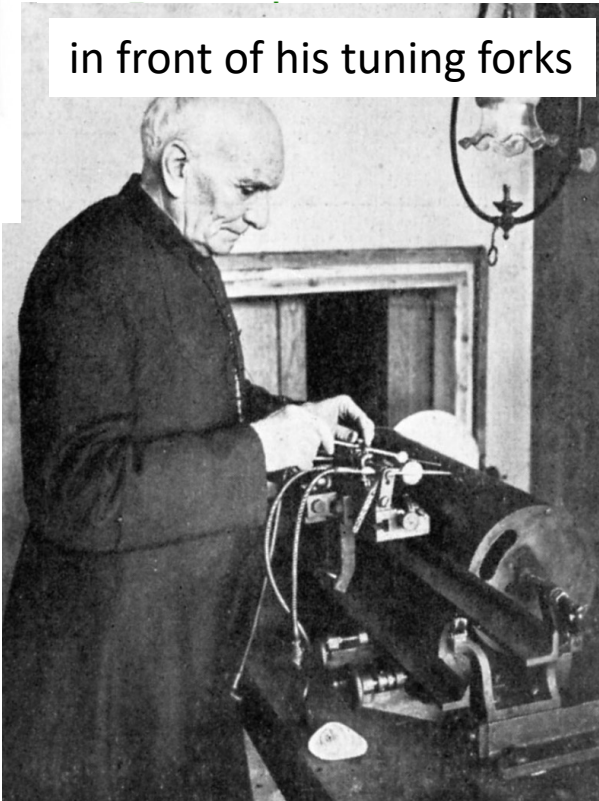
2 Rousselot et sa collection de diapasons (collection privée)



in front of his tuning forks



His two main books



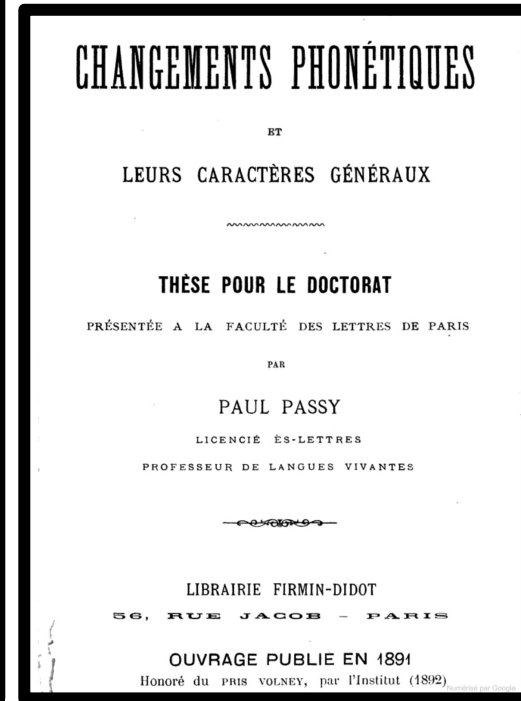
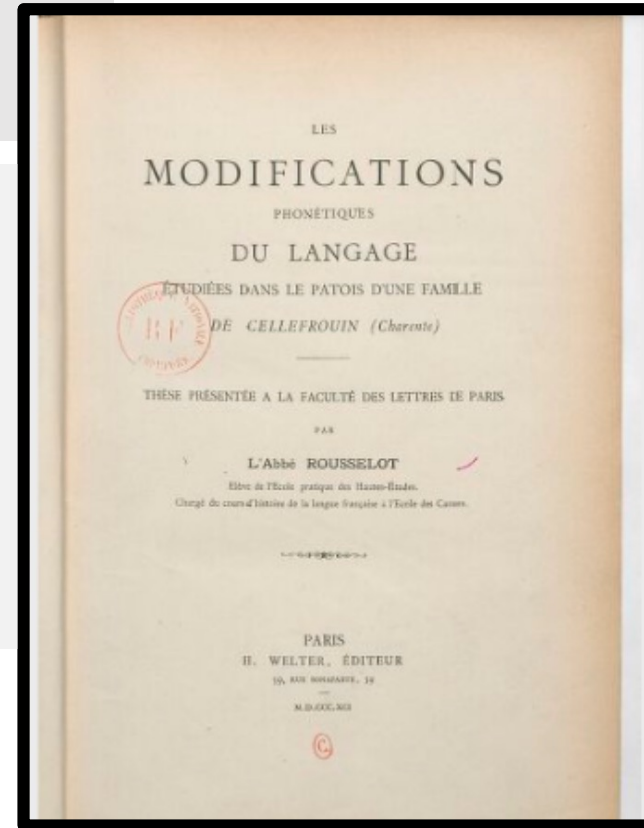
# Rousselot studied his family's dialect and its evolution (1891)

« *Les modifications phonétiques du langage étudiées dans le patois d'une famille de Cellefrouin (Charente)* (1891) »

Really interdisciplinary thesis (some say the first one):

*dialectology,  
graphic method of Marey,  
Physiology,  
and human sciences.*

One of his scientific purposes was to apply experimental methods to reproduce sound change, he may be considered as the founder of Experimental sound change Phonology.

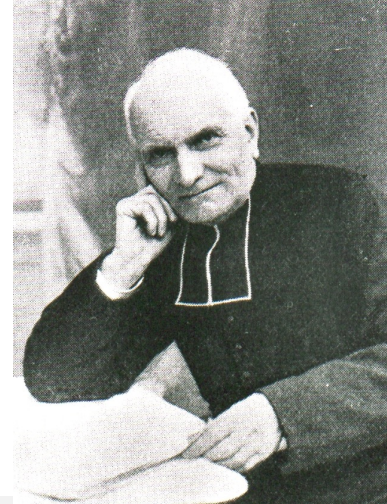


Passy's thesis the same year on sound changes



## And Rousselot found: « hearing is not enough »

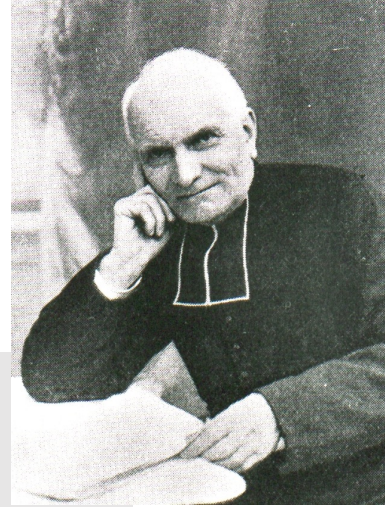
While studying the evolution of his dialect, JPR realized that his ear was not capable of describing **phonetic details, which are essential**.



*l'oreille ne peut suffire à nous renseigner sur tout ce qu'il nous importe de savoir. [...] La recherche des procédés d'expérimentation [...] s'impose au phonéticien désireux de dire ce qui est et non ce qu'il sent, de substituer la réalité objective à l'impression personnelle, d'agrandir la puissance visuelle et auditive, et d'étendre le champ de ses études au-delà des limites étroites assignées à nos sens.*

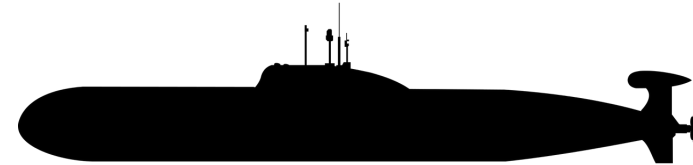
The ear cannot suffice to inform us about everything we need to know. [...] The search for **experimental procedures** [...] is necessary for the phonetician who wishes to say what is and not what he feels, to substitute **objective reality** for personal impression, to enlarge the visual and auditory power, and to extend the field of his studies beyond the narrow limits assigned to our senses [...].J.-P. Rousselot, Principes de phonétique expérimentale p. 44-45 ,...

Rousselot came to Paris to complete his scientific training (1880 à 1885).



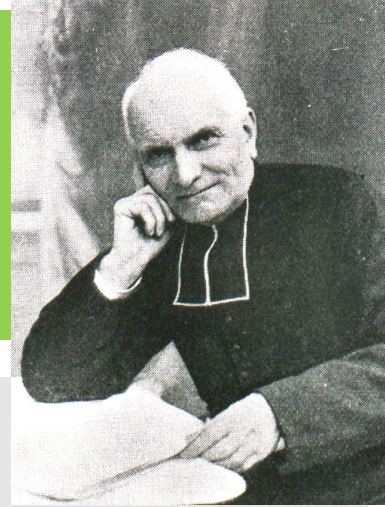
To get a better understanding on speech, JPR studied not only **linguistics** and **comparative grammar**, but also **physics**, **propagation of the sound**, **electricity**, **telegraphy**, and **physiology**.

Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur



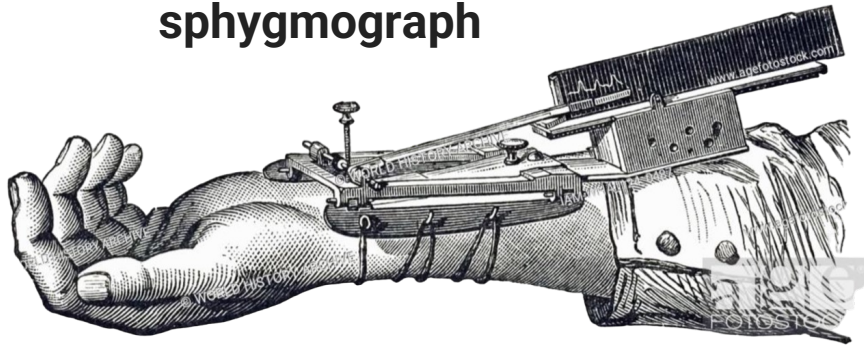
During the first war, he established the principles of the correct location of guns and submarines and received the Legion of Honor from the French government.

In Paris, Étienne-Jules Marey (physiologist) had developed the graphical method:  
graphs are profs



To show on graphs the evolution over time of parameters such as blood pressure, blood circulation, heartbeat, breathing, body movements, etc.

sphygmograph



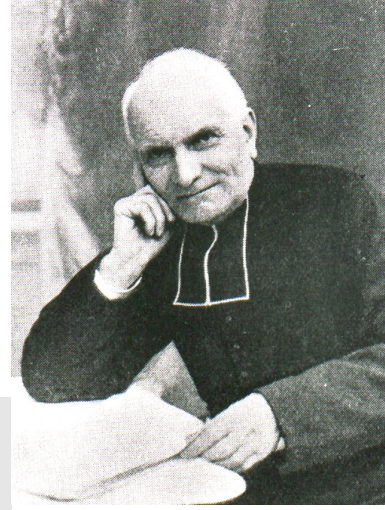
recording of the pulse and variations graphically in blood and pressure

Marey's  
chronophotograph





In Paris, at this time, Marey (physiologist) developed  
the « graphical method »;  
graphs are proofs



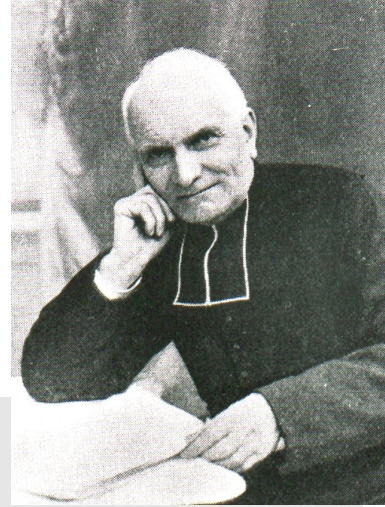
To show on graphs the evolution over time of parameters such as blood pressure, blood circulation, heartbeat, breathing and many other.

In 1875, a delegation from the LSPL came to consult Marey with the aim of "applying the graphic method to the study of the so complex and varied movements that occur in speech" and in particular the speech of deaf-mutes.

Marey accepted, and he said that he already had instruments to study speech, which he had developed.

But the linguists were quite interested, but not much.

In Paris, Marey (physiologist) developed  
the « graphical method »;  
graphs are proofs



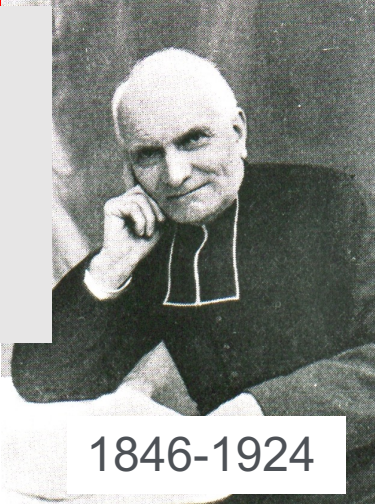
To show on graphs the evolution over time of parameters such as blood pressure, blood circulation, heartbeat, breathing and many other.

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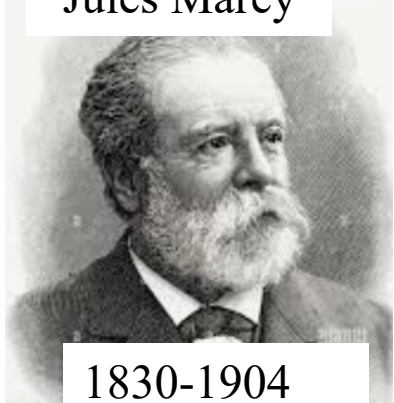
JPR was very much influenced by Marey's graphical method, and through Marey Came into contact with Charles Rosapelly and Louis Havet

- As quoted by John Ohala, at that time, the professional background of the ones who contributed before Rousselot the most to construct **instrumentation** that will be available later for instrumental phonetics was mainly **medicine, physics, engineering, a few linguists, mathematics, and physiology**.



1846-1924

Jules Marey



1830-1904

JPR was very much influenced by Étienne-Jules Marey 's (1830-1904) , the physician who developed the graphic method: the graphs are the proof.

Charles-Etienne Rosapelly

Thanks to Marey, he got into contact with Charles Rosapelly and Louis Havet

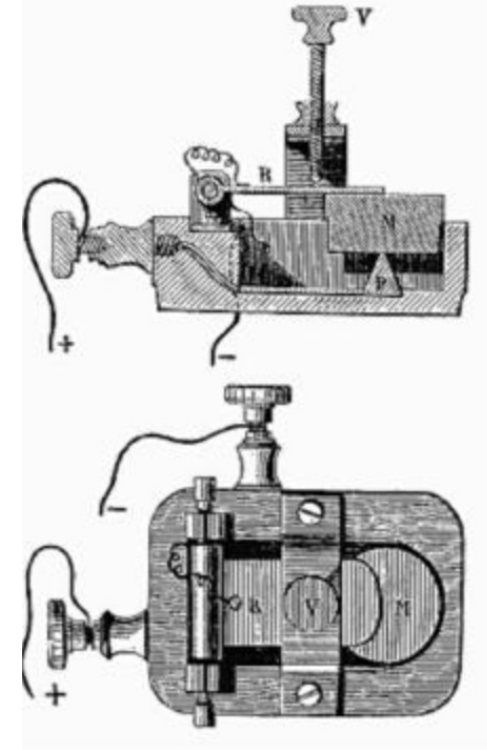
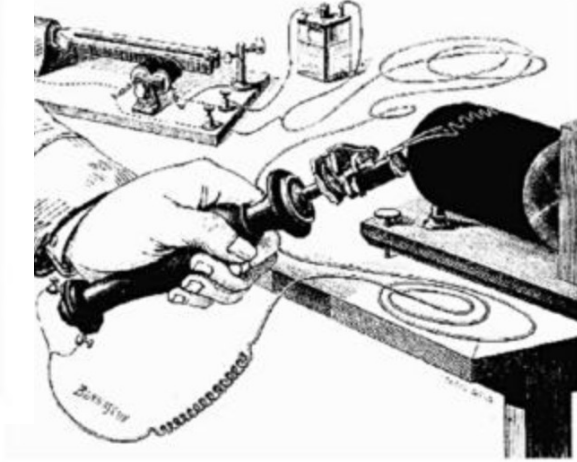
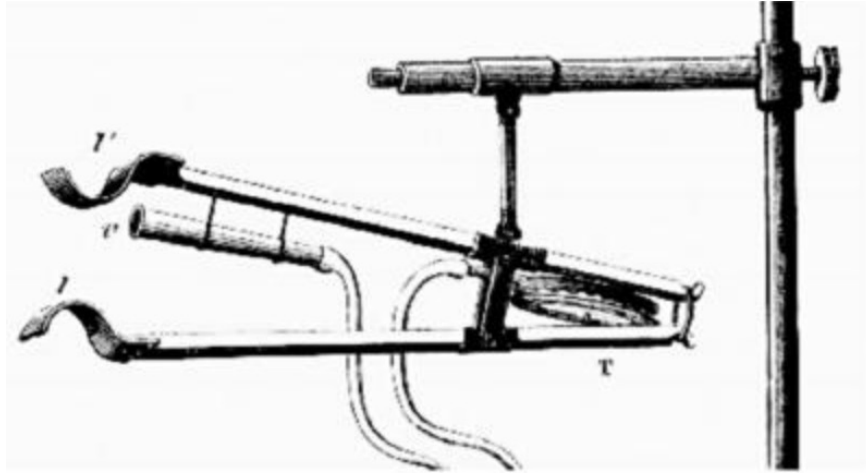
1 Étienne-Jules Marey dans son laboratoire  
Pierre Jean Rousselot, vers 1885 (vidéo)



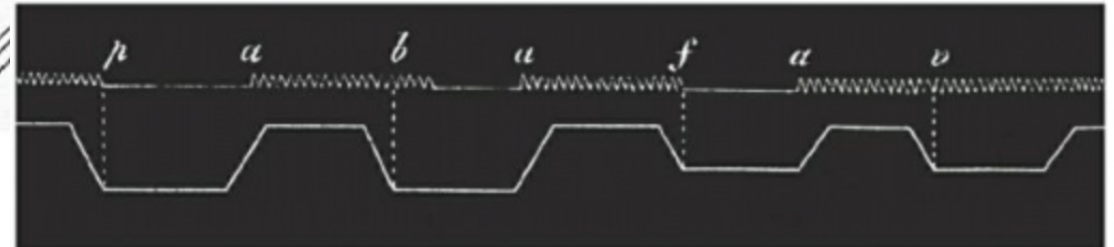
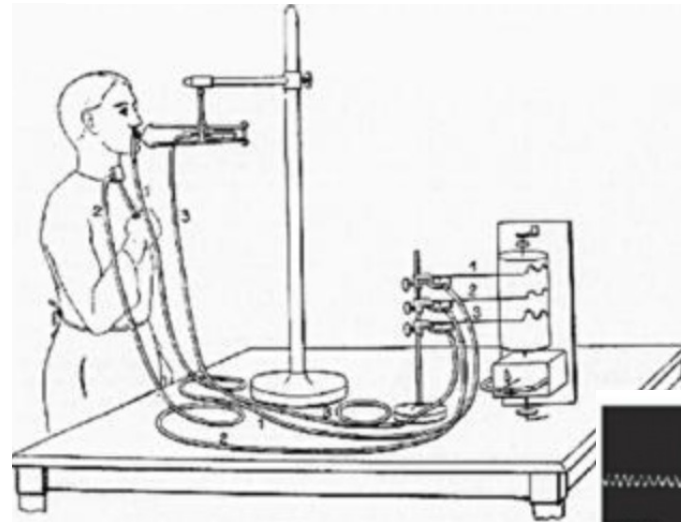
Appendix ■ Original (page 146) ■



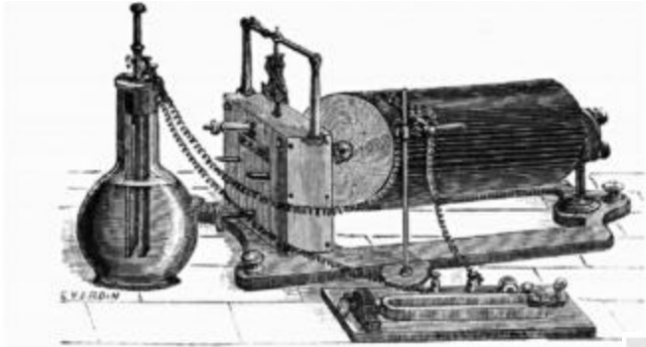
# Some of the Marey's and Rosapelly's instruments 1/3



Repères	1	2	3
A	a p.....p a	a b.....b a	a m.....m a
P. n.	-	-	+
V. l.	-	+	+
M. l.	+	+	+
B	a f.....f a	a v.....v a	a w.....w a
P. n.	-	-	+
V. l.	-	+	+
M. l.	+	+	+
C	a p.....b a	a p.....v a	a f.....v a
P. n.	-	-	+
V. l.	-	+	+
M. l.	+	+	+

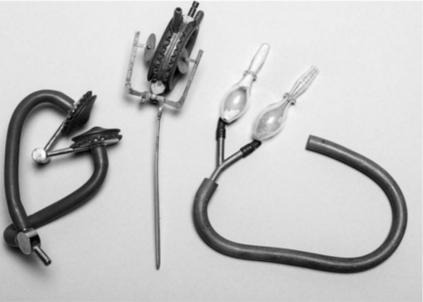


# Some of the Marey's and Rosapelly's instruments 2/3



Zoom in Original (jpeg, 12k)

4 Diapason chronographe (Rousselot 1924a, p.



LI and MILLS | From Voice Identification to Speech Recognition

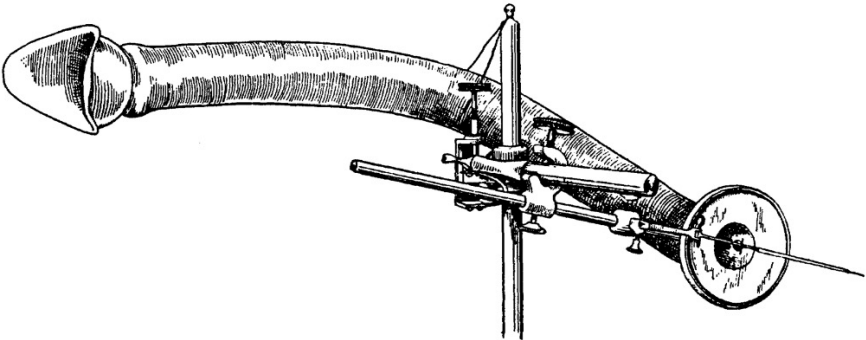
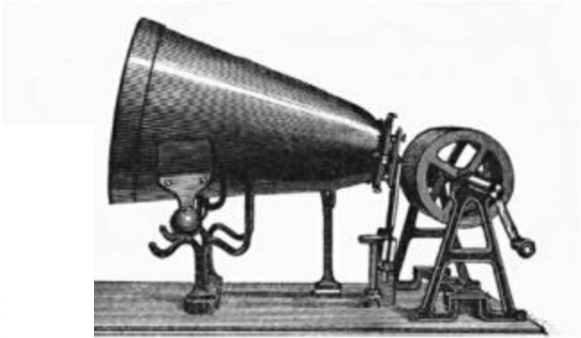


FIG. 2 A "vowel tracer" inscription attachment for Rousselot's apparatus, designed by Goddard. (Source: Pliny Earle Goddard, "Mechanical Aids " 618.)



original (jpeg, 11k)

sur de Kronig par les flammes manométriques (Rousselot 1924a, p.

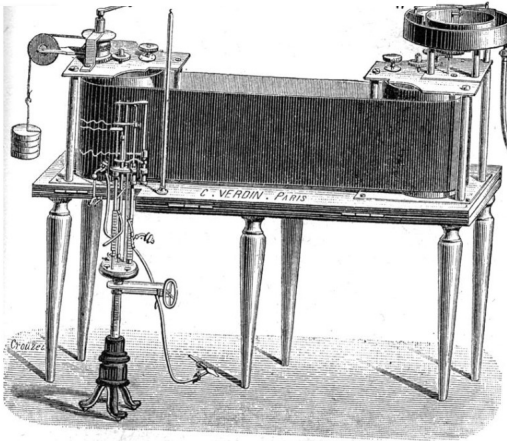
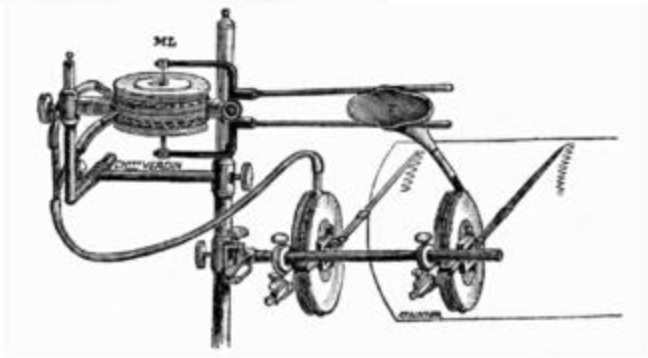
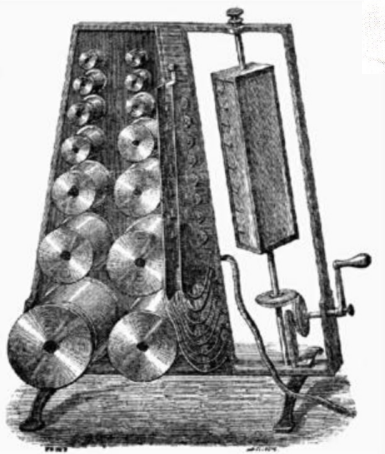
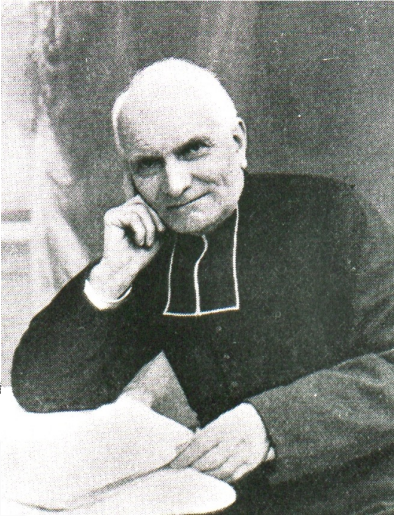
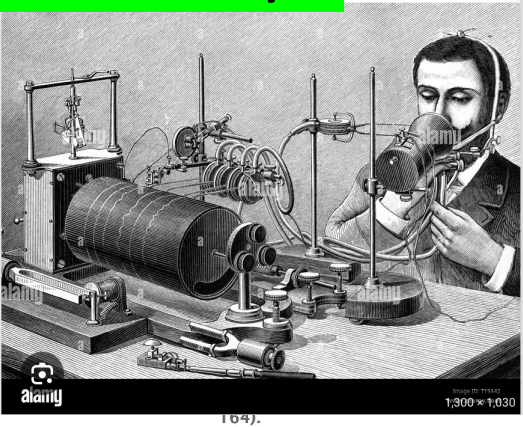


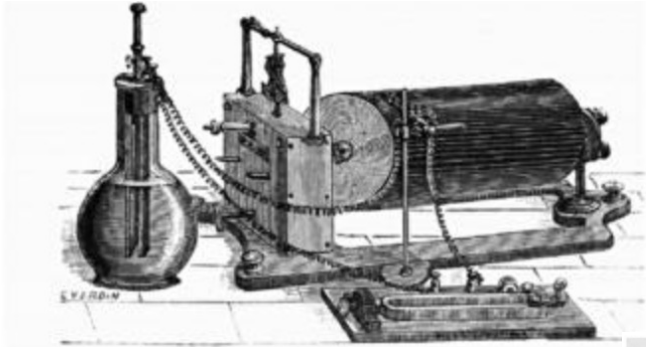
Fig. 22.  
Enregistreur à poids.  
Enregistreur utilisé par Marey et construit par Ve  
In Rousselot, Principes..., p. 65



Zoom in Original (jpeg, 10k)

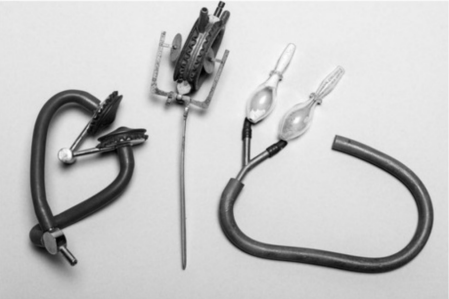


# Some of the Marey's and Rosapelly's instruments 3/3



Zoom in  Original (jpeg, 12k) 

4 Diapason chronographe (Rousselot 1924a, p.



LI and MILLS | From Voice Identification to Speech Recognition

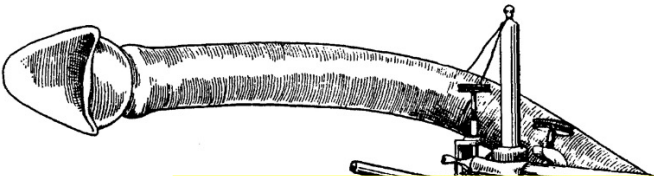
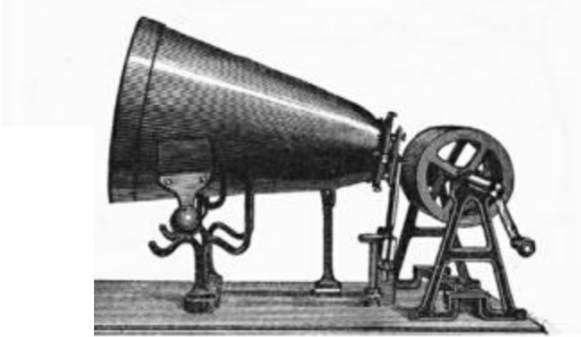


FIG. 2 A "vowel"  
signed by Godd



original (jpeg, 11k) 

sur de Kronig par les flammes manométriques (Rousselot 1924a, p.

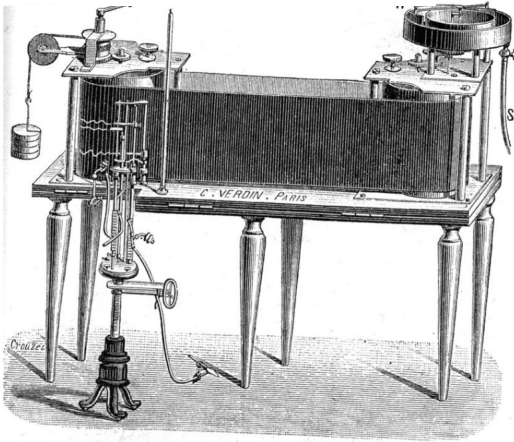
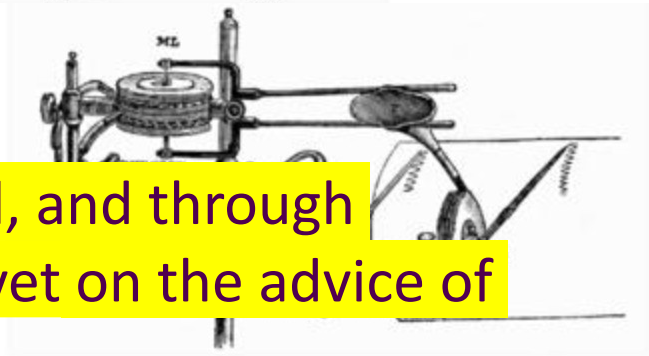
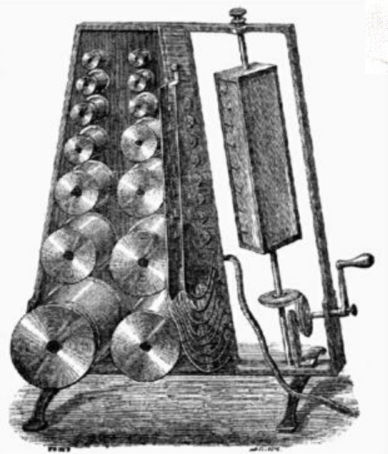
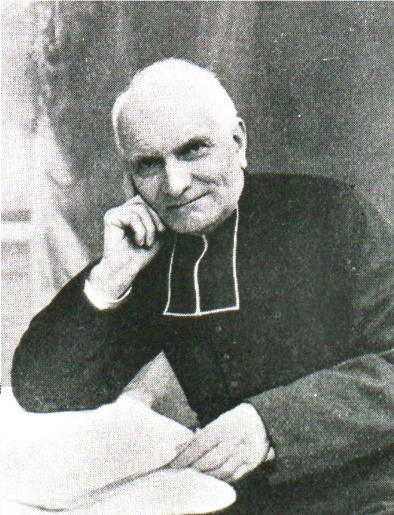
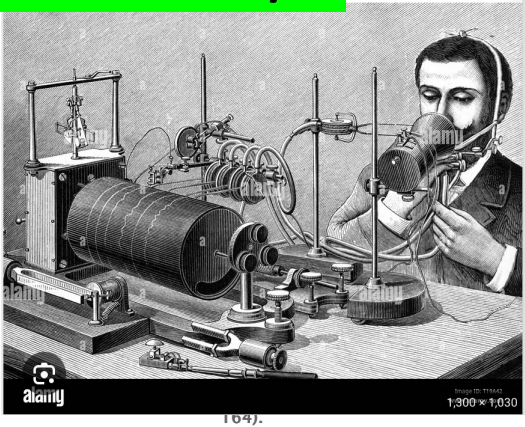


Fig. 22.  
Enregistreur à poids.



Zoom in  Original (jpeg, 10k) 

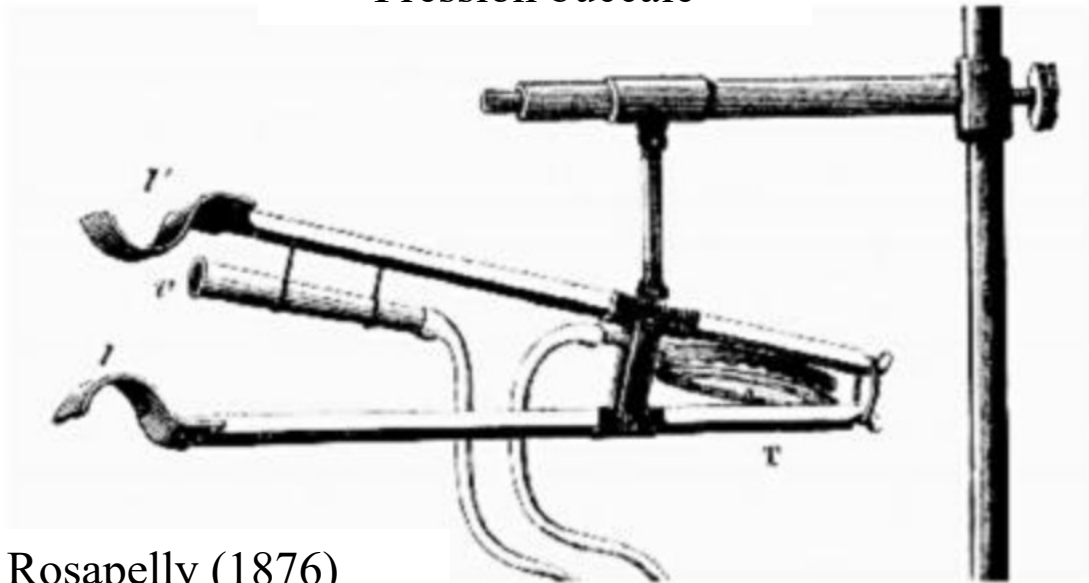
Rousselot was greatly influenced by Marey's graphic method, and through Marey, came in contact with Charles Rosapelly and Louis Havet on the advice of Gaston Paris, and he could use the instruments.



# For example: lips and larynx movements

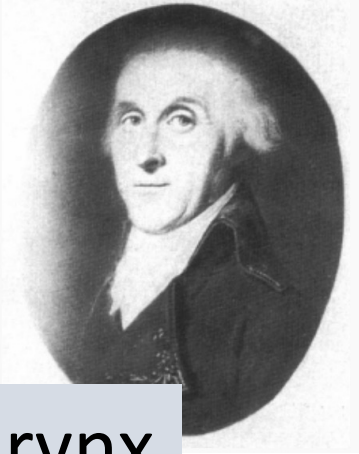
lips

Pression buccale

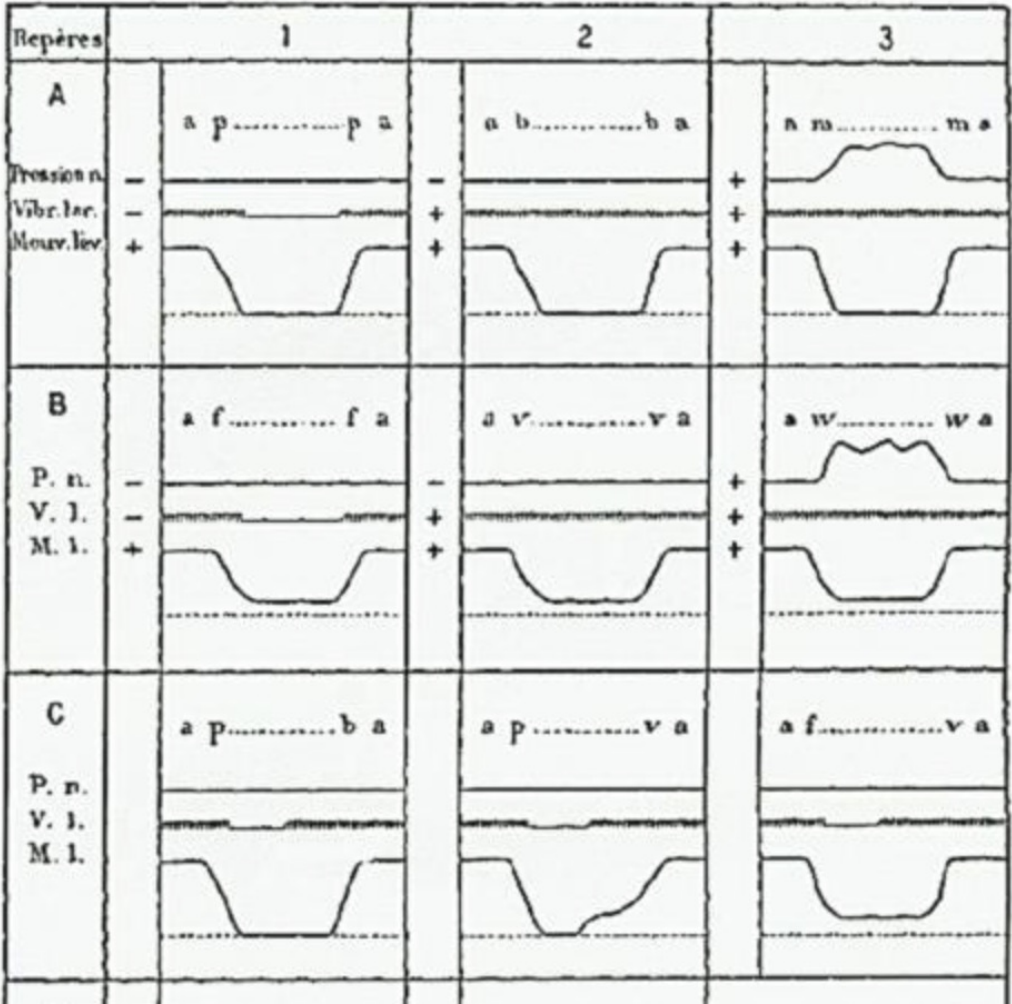


Rosapelly (1876)

Vibrations of the larynx



# And multiparametric representation of the sound



- 1. Glottal vibrations
- 2. Nasal pressure
- 3. Lip movment

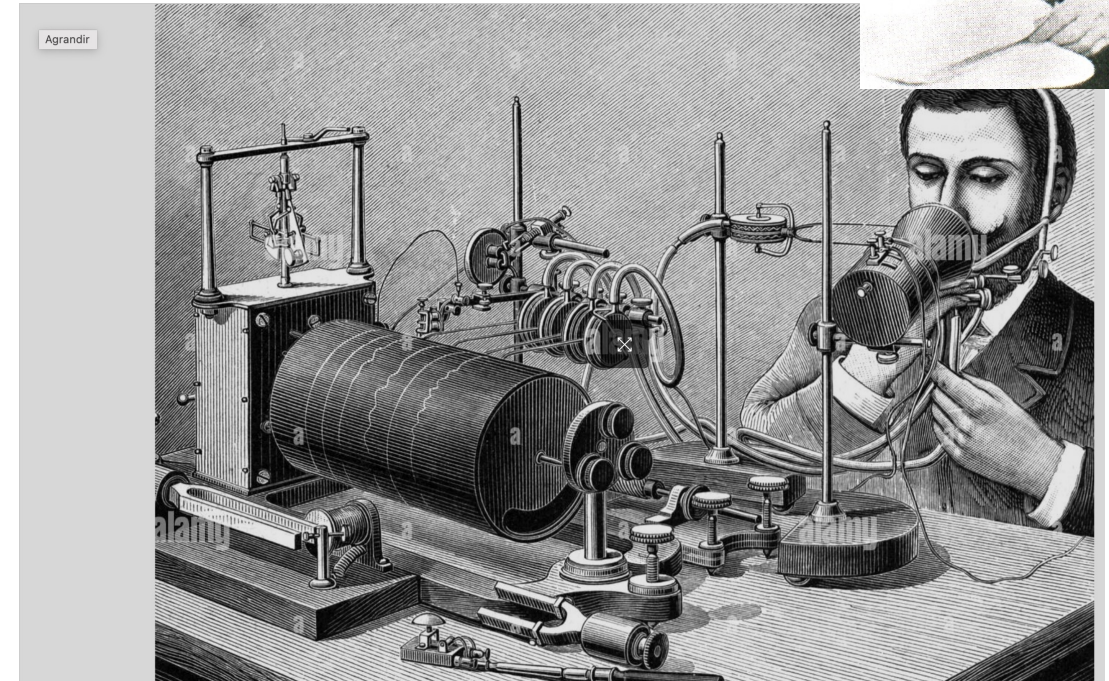
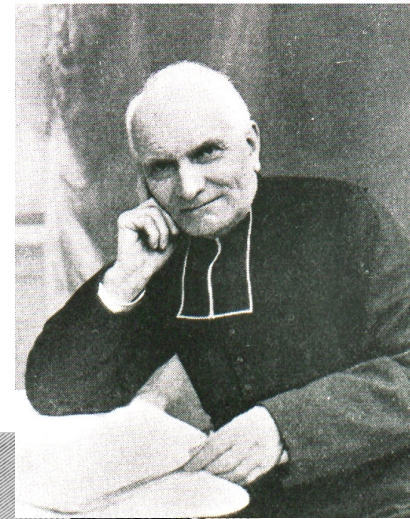
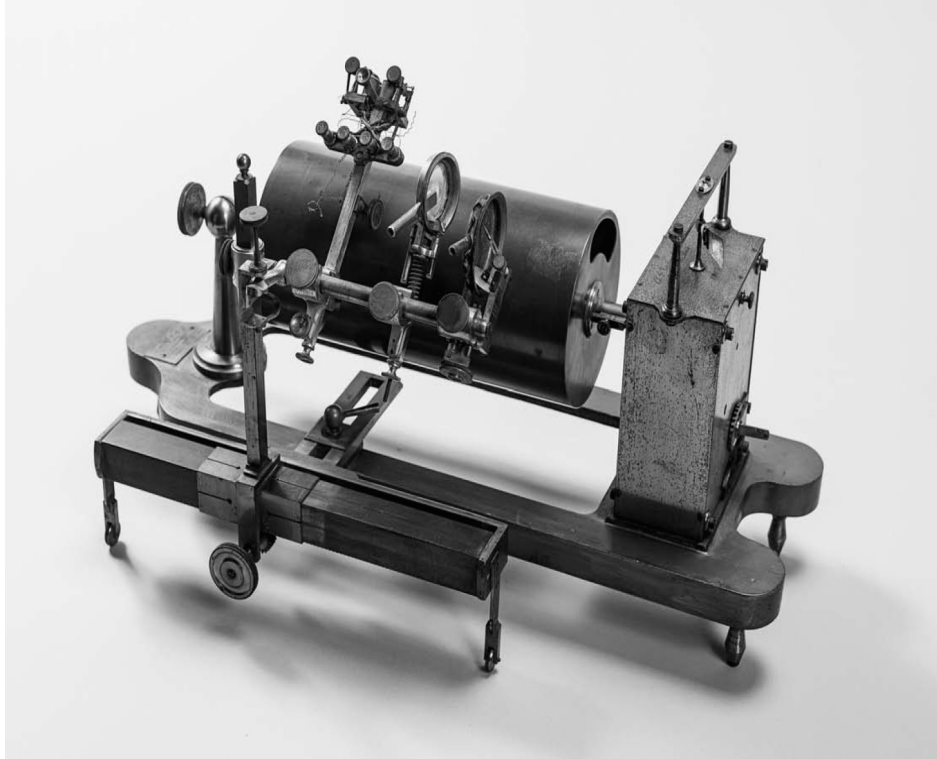
Developing new ways to measure phonetic parameters



Portrait de Rosapelly en costume de général en chef des armées de la République (1797) (coll. privée)

Rosapelly'

# Rousselot developed the kymograph

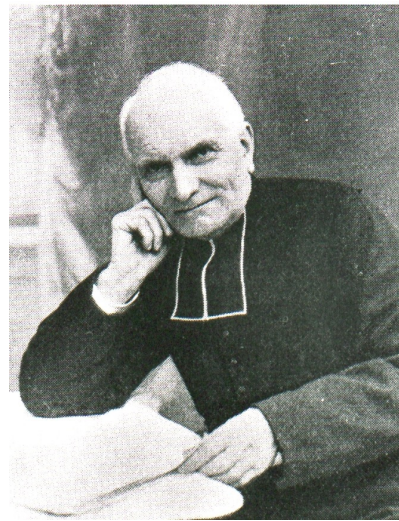


**Kymographe de l'abbé Rousselot : Inscripteur électrique, et deux tambours de Marey**



## Rousselot's sense of humor ?

On one of his paper, the ecclesiastic, wrote in a slightly sarcastic way, that one of his subjects went to school, but this scholar experience seems to have left no trace.

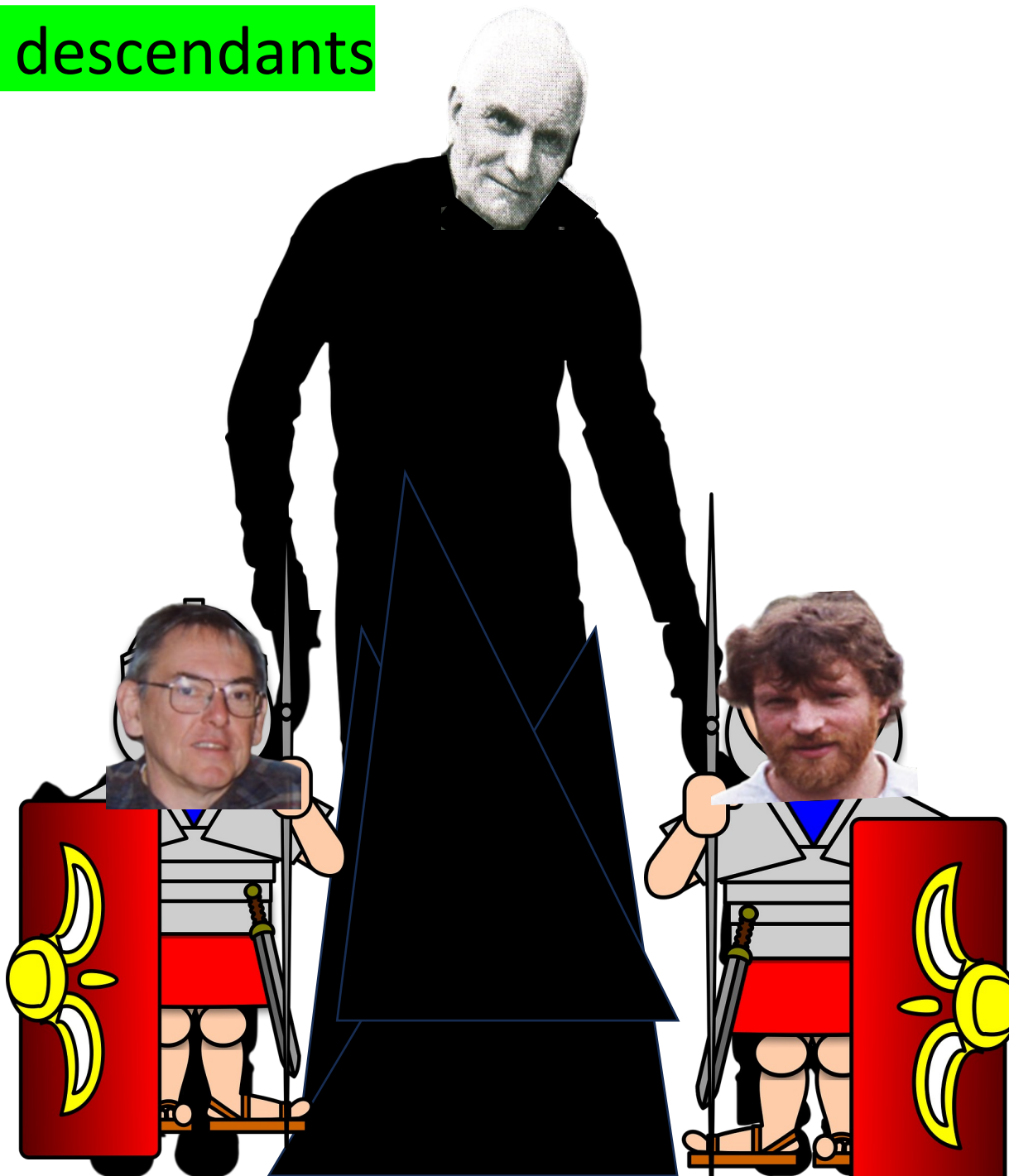


He aslo wrote:

*The procedures of the experimental sciences are quite foreign to linguists. A sort of superstitious terror seizes them as soon as it is a question of touching the simplest mechanism. It was thus necessary to make them glimpse the immense field that experimentation opens before them' (1904: 1).*

It didn't sound like Christian charity,  
but can be seen as the premise of some of our dear John Ohala's jokes☺!

## Rousselot's descendants

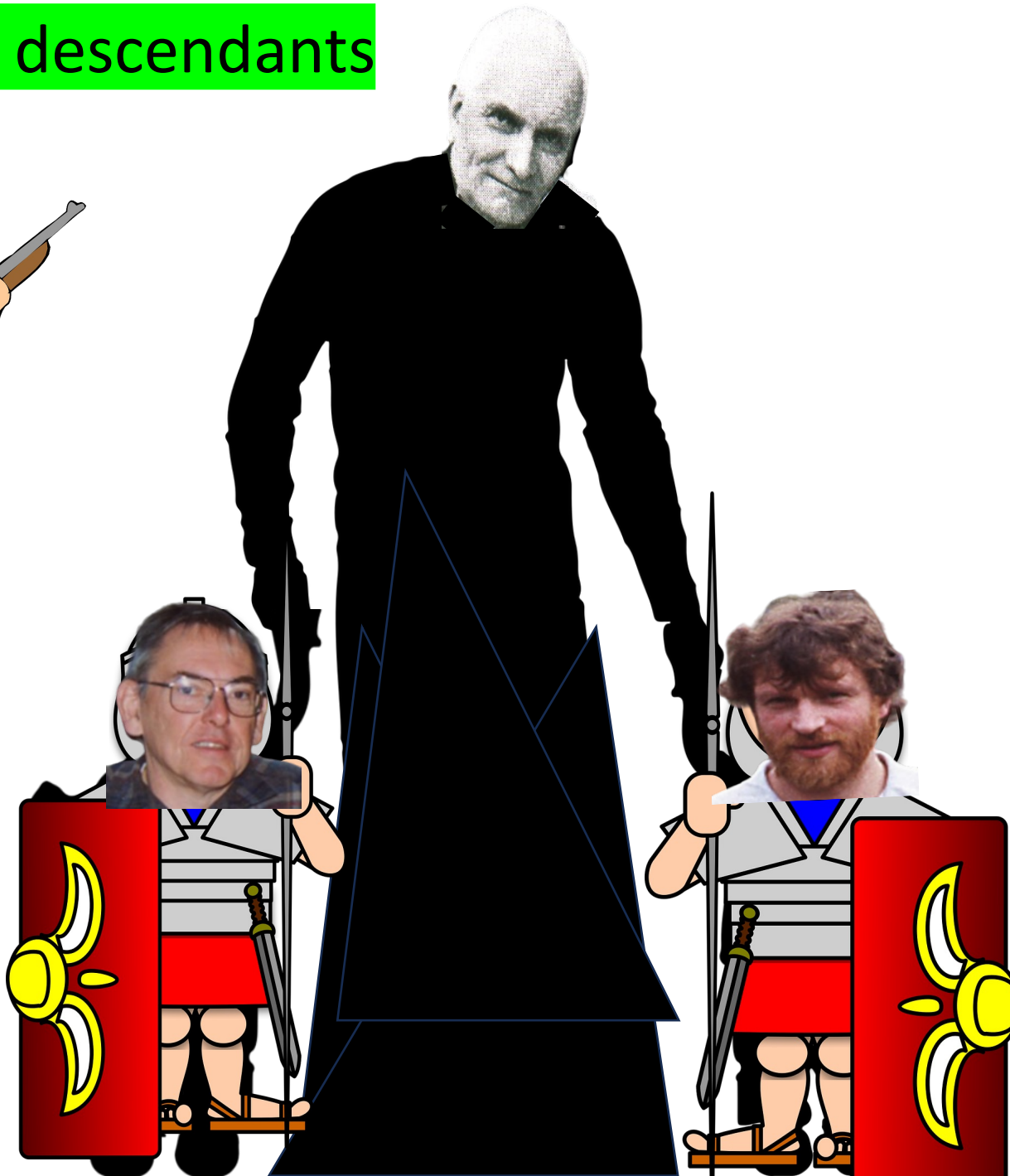


Rousselot had two  
partisans on his heels:

**John Ohala**, as a very  
efficient and combative  
propagator of  
experimental phonetics,

and **Didier Demolin** as  
a valiant illustrator of  
experimental phonetics.

# Rousselot's descendants



- **John** was the heroic defender of experimental phonetics, who masterfully demonstrated the validity of Rousselot's approach.
- He has somehow inherited the sometimes un-Catholic humor of the man he admires☺
- **Didier**, the fervent defender of experimental phonetics too and a model of experimental phoneticiaRousselot's book
- Their favorite book was probably the Bible written by their spiritual father, which illuminated their light-filled and shadowless experimental life☺.

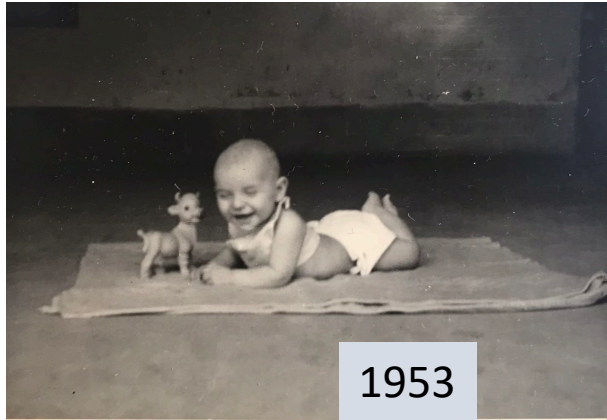


The second one was born in the Belgian Congo in 1953

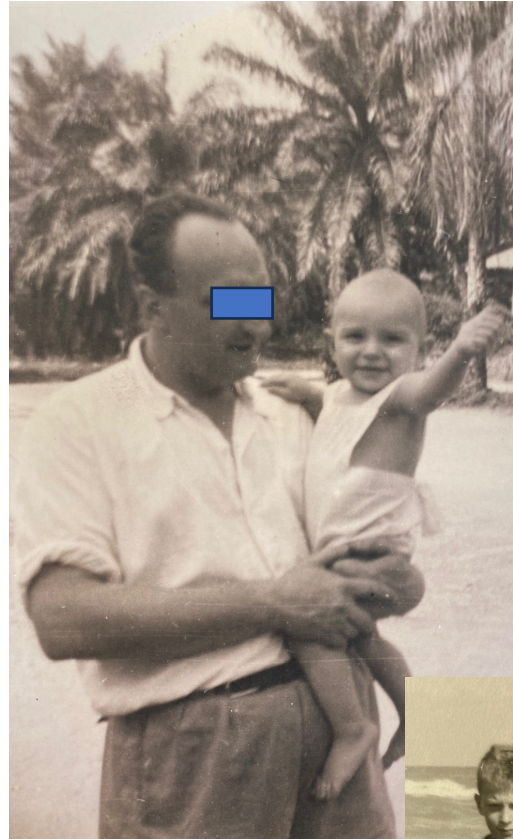




# DD as baby and later

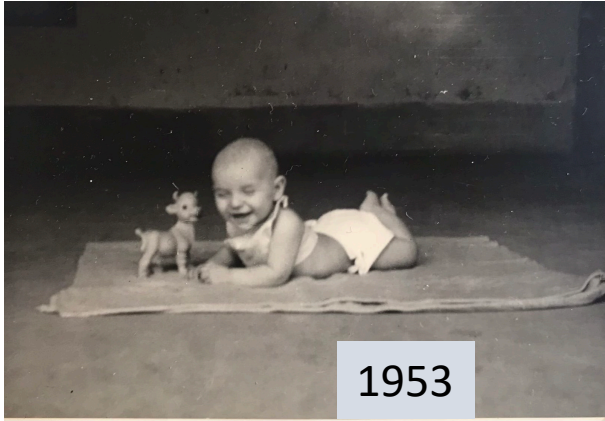


He is the eldest of a family  
of four children,  
three boys and one girl

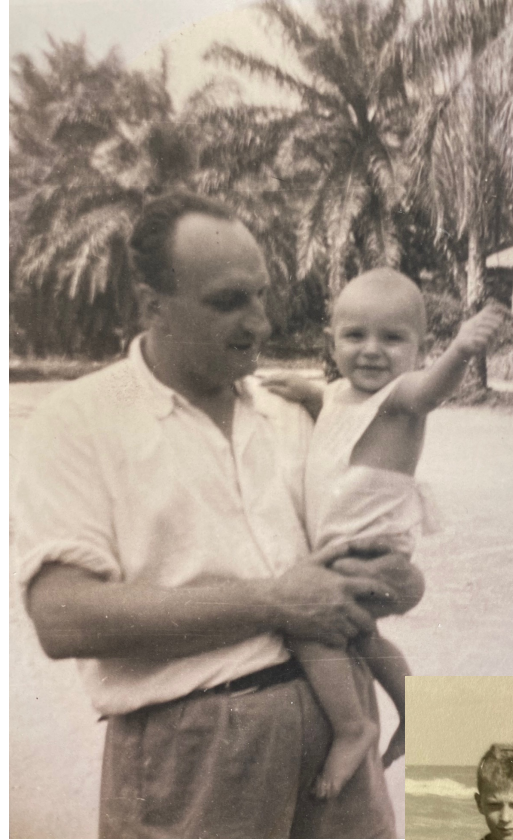




# DD as baby and later



He is the eldest of a family  
of four children,  
three boys and one girl



He is the eldest of a  
family of four children,  
three boys and one  
girl.





JO and DD met and become the best friends in the world

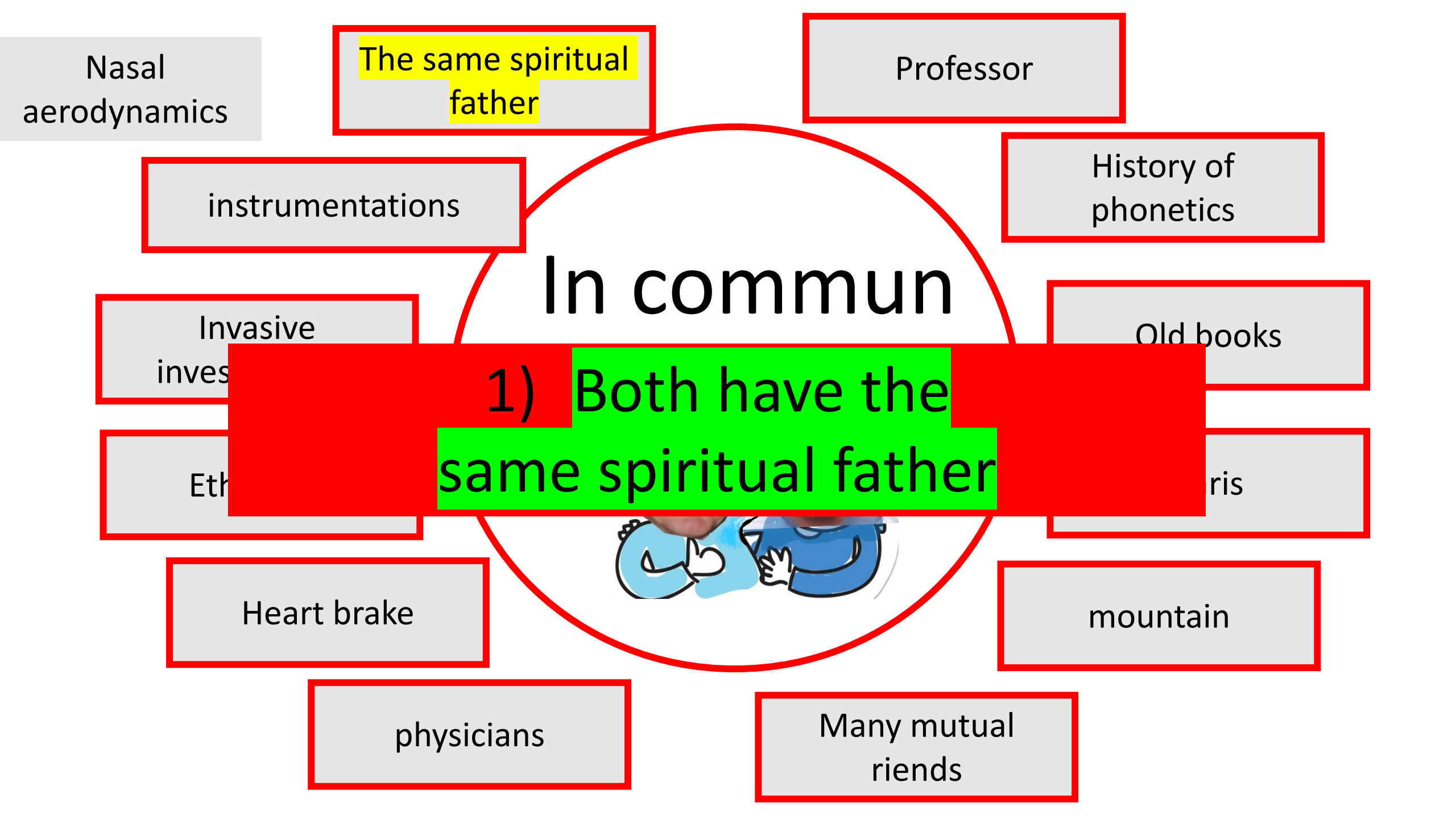


And they both are quite a character 😊.



Workshop honoring John Ohala



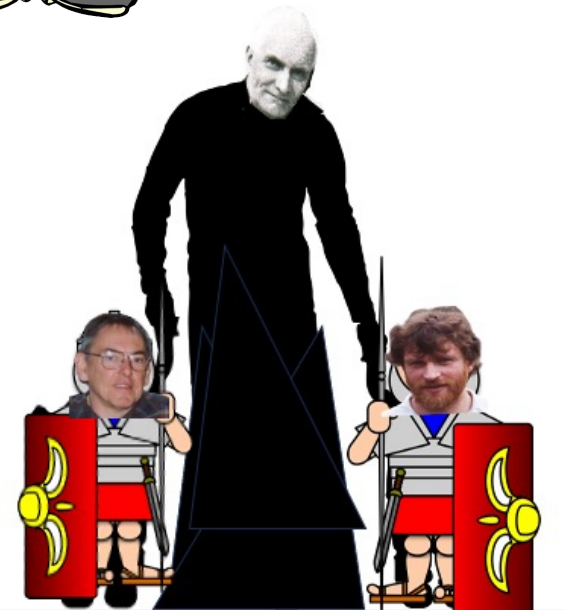


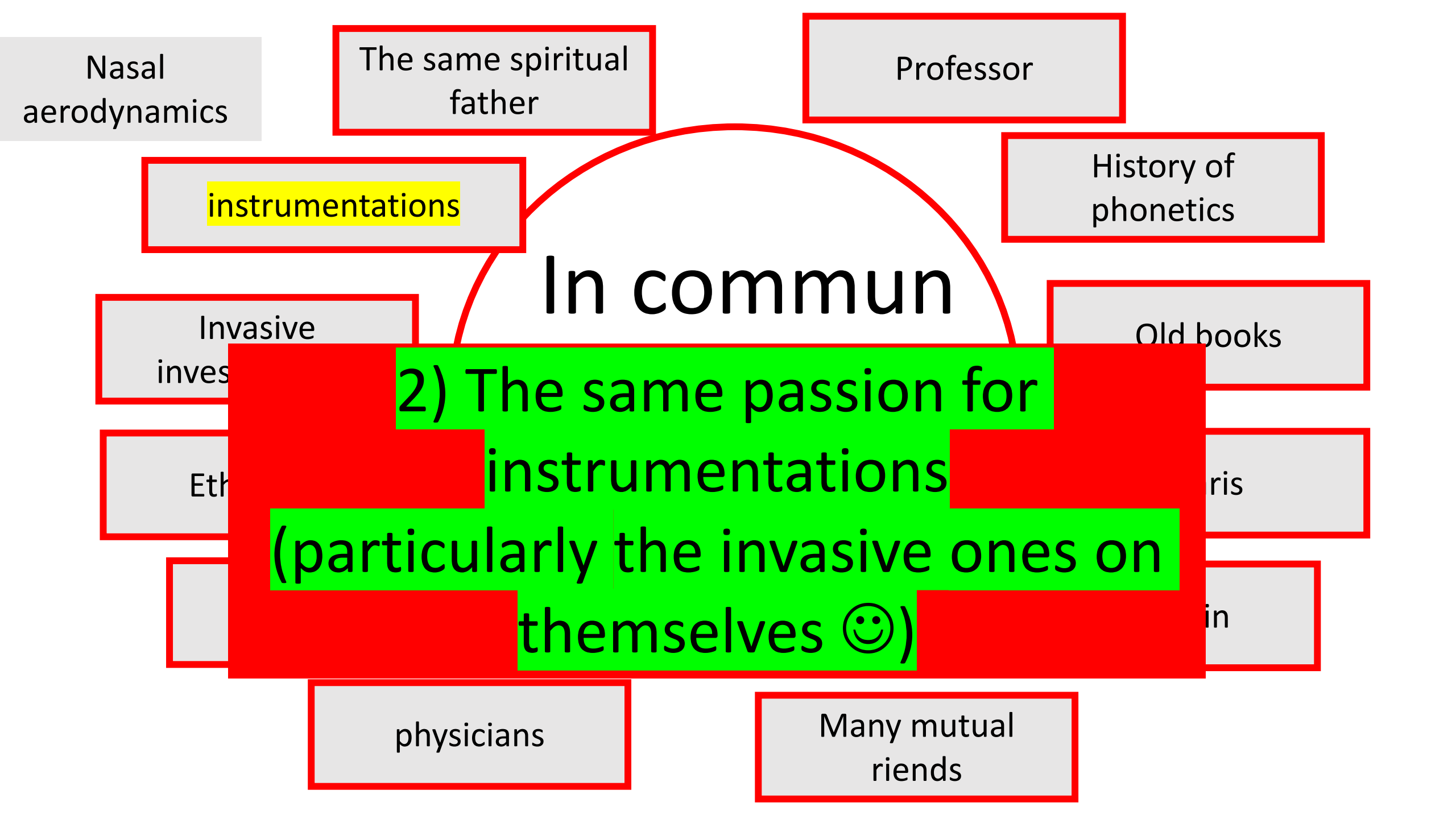


# 1) The same spiritual father

As Rousselot

- Same combative passion for research
- Same basic question: Comment ça marche?
- Same belief in the use of experimental methods.
- Phonetics and phonology is one and the same thing.
- Same interest in the sources of sound change.
- And in the role of aerodynamics and physiology
- Both have close connection to medical doctors
- Both are teachers and researcher !





Nasal  
aerodynamics

The same spiritual  
father

Professor

History of  
phonetics

Old books

ris

in

Many mutual  
riends

physicians

Eth

Invasive  
inves

2) The same passion for  
instrumentations  
(particularly the invasive ones on  
themselves 😊)

In commun

instrumentations

# John Ohala's instrumentations



## John refined

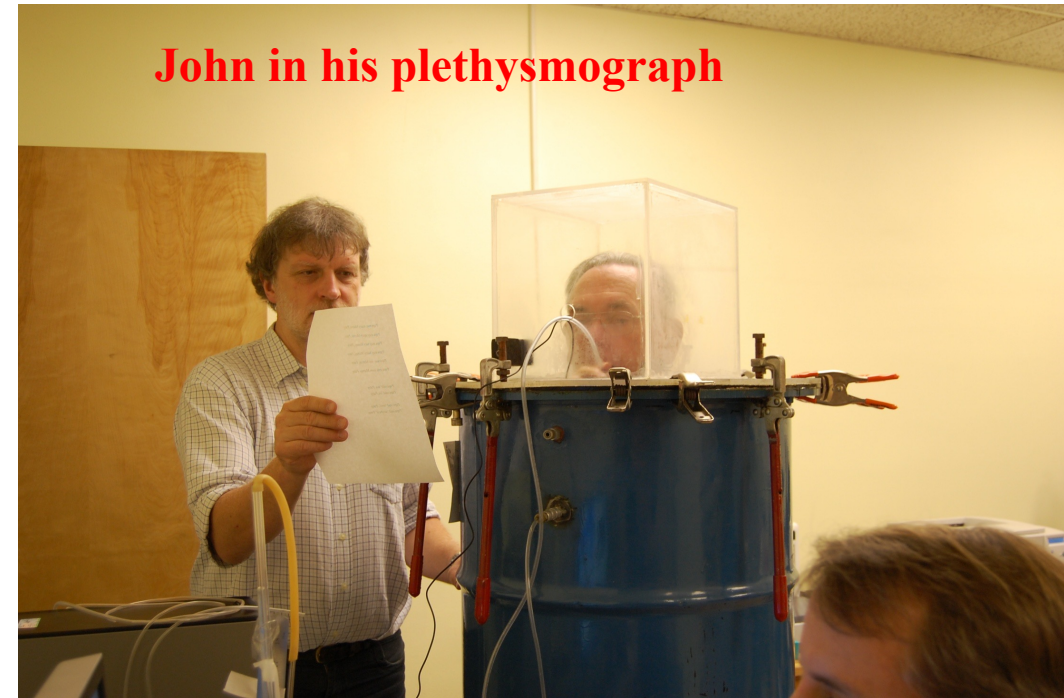
**plethysmograph** : an instrument for recording and measuring variation in the volume of a part of the body,

**thyrometer**, an optoelectric device for observing the laryngeal control in speech through the vertical movement of the larynx

**photoelectric glottograph (1967)**: technique for investigating the opening and closing of the glottis in the larynx (Czermak in 1861)

## John invented

**nasograph**: technique for investigating the closing and opening in the velopharyngeal port

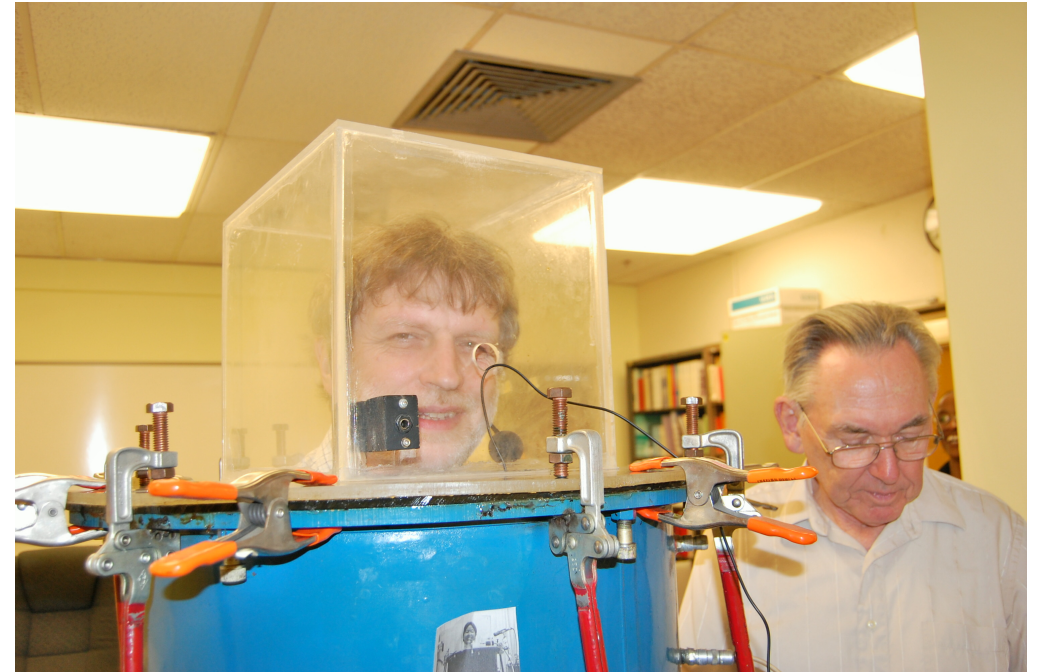




# Plethysmograph

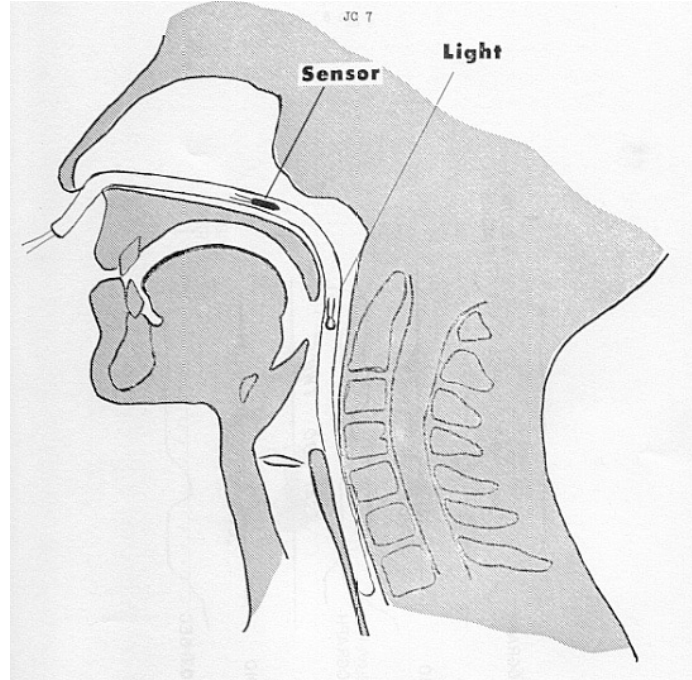


**plethysmograph** : an instrument for recording and measuring variation in the volume of a part of the body





# John's nasograph



**nasograph:** technique for investigating the degree of velo-pharyngeal opening

A miniature light sensor, encased in transparent plastic catheter, are situated on opposite sides of the velum. As the velopharyngeal port varies in size with the raising and lowering of the velum, the light flux through the port

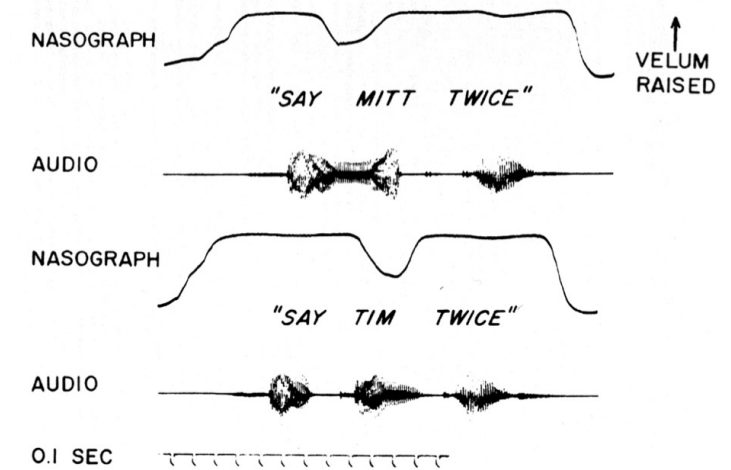


Figure 4.

From: Ohala, J. 1971. Monitoring soft palate movements in speech. *Project on Linguistics Analysis Reports* (Berkeley). 13.JO1-JO15.

# Didier participated to the development of EVA with his friend Bernard Teston



**DD refined**

**EVA: synchronization of**

**Acoustic data**

**Aerodynamic data:** (oral and nasal airflows, intra oral and subglottal pressure)

**Electroglottograph**

**portable electromyography devices.**

**DD prived**

Didier & al (2002) proved that it is possible to record in real-time the MRI and the speech signal.



Bernard created the first portable EVA machine for Didier.

Real-time magnetic resonance imaging for the study of speech production



# And Didier used EVA a lot on the field

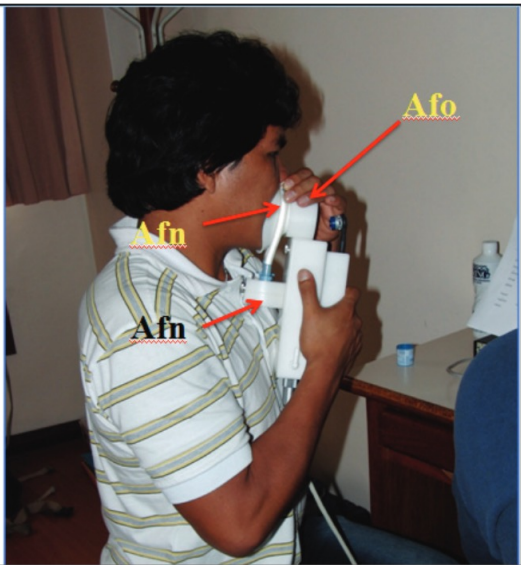
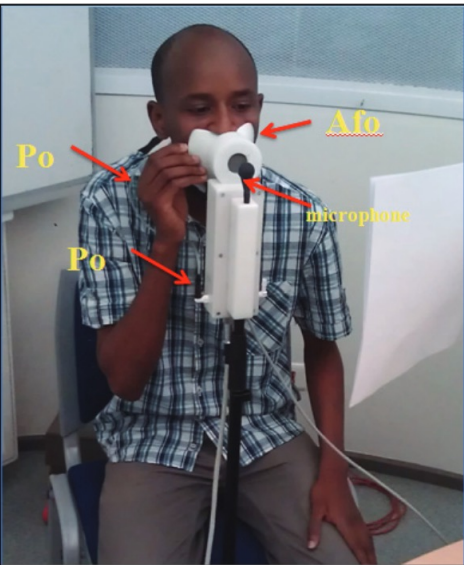
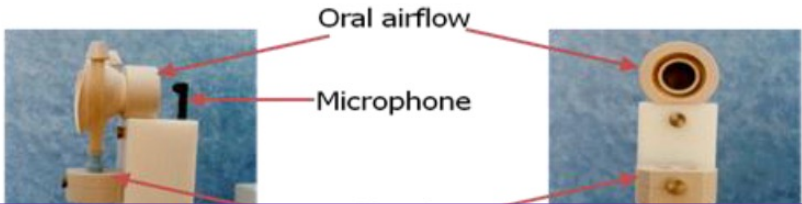


Figure 1: The setting of the EVA2 transducers.

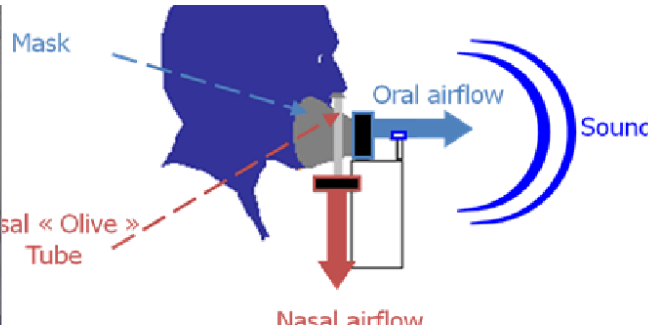
Eva2



## AERODYNAMIC TECHNIQUES FOR PHONETIC FIELDWORK

Didier Demolin

1 and 2



'Fieldwork data potentially provides the opportunity to identify sounds that are either deemed impossible or are not yet categorized by the IPA' (Didier)

EVA offered DD the possibility of characterizing sounds deemed impossible or poorly categorized by the IPA

# Didier has used all available instrumentations

EVA



Direct tracheal puncture



EMMA



EMG



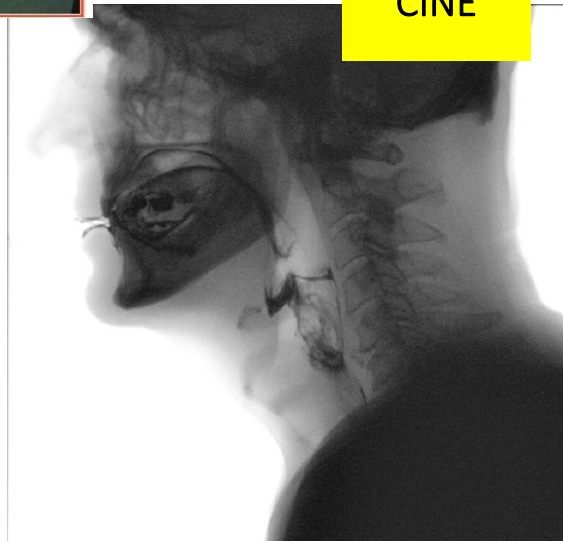
EEG



MRI



CINE

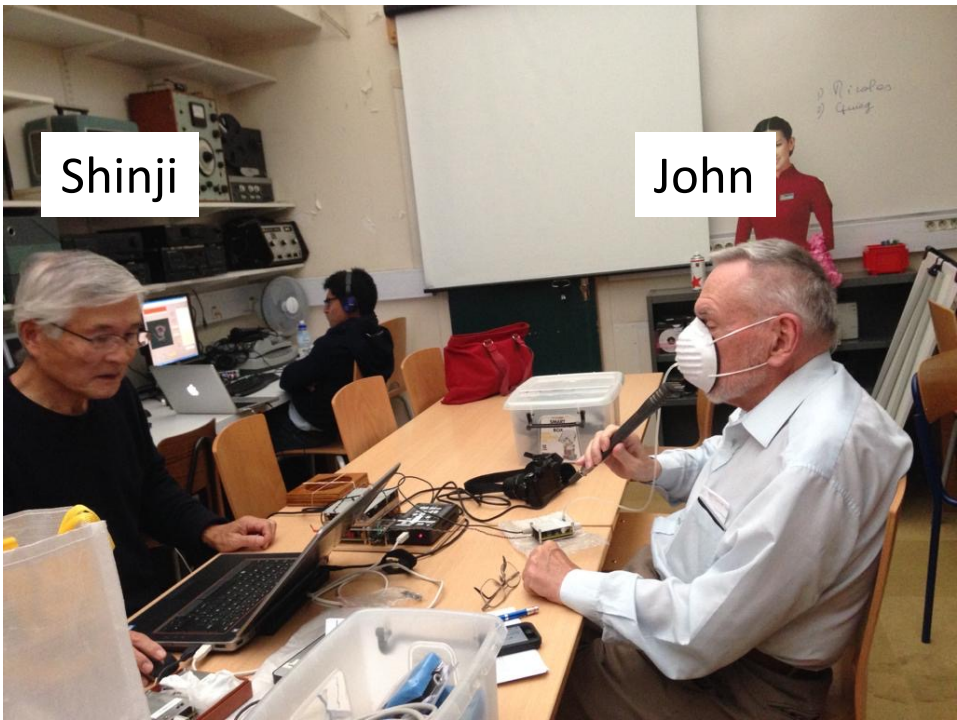
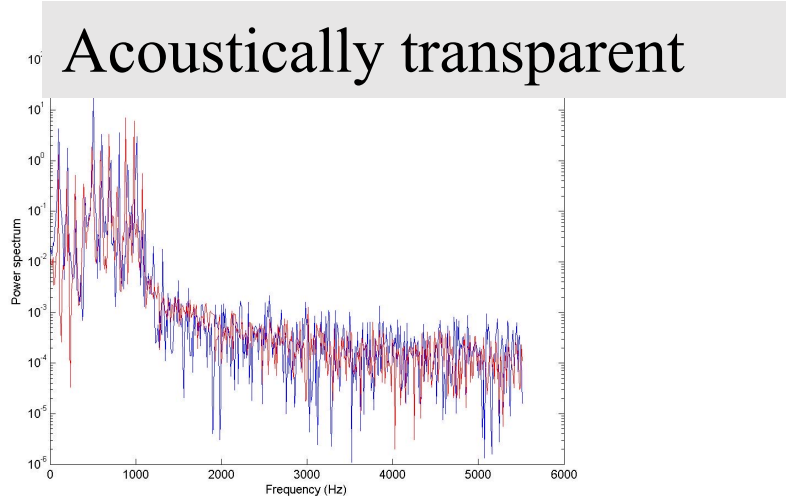
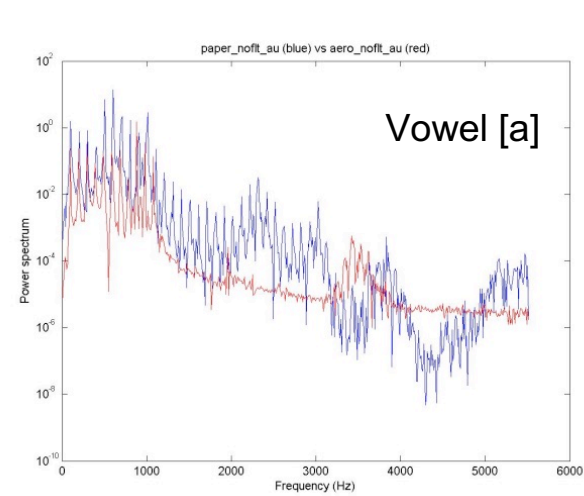




# Didier intends to use a new available instrumentation



Maeda's mask



disposal paper mask





# Didier intends to use a new available instrumentation



Maeda's mask

Acoustically transparent

The advantage of Maeda's mask is that it is acoustically transparent and does not distort the signal.

It uses an inexpensive paper mask for painting.

Didier took Shinji's mask to Tanzania at the beginning of the year on a mission with Alain Ghio, but the battery caught a cold in the hold and didn't work ☹️



# By using a lot of instrumentation, Didier created a lot of very precious data

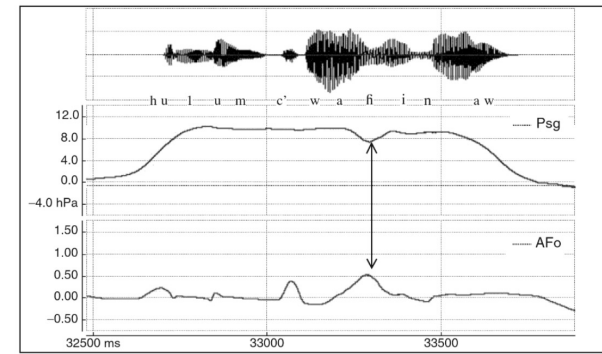
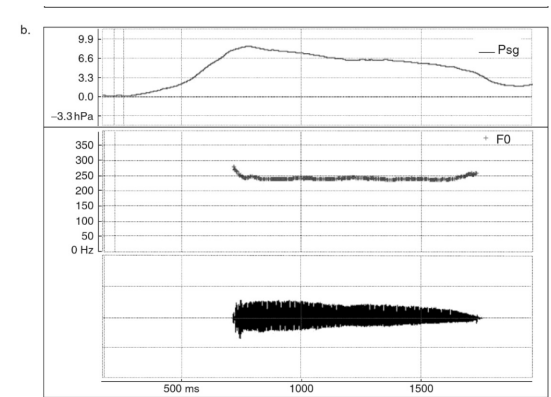
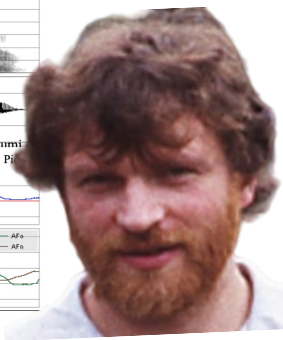
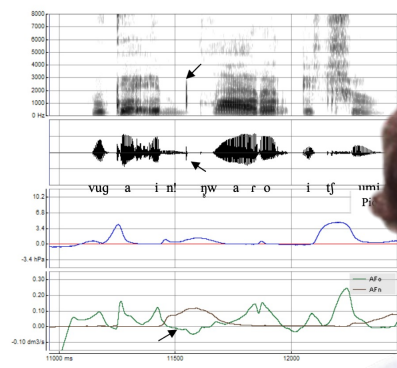
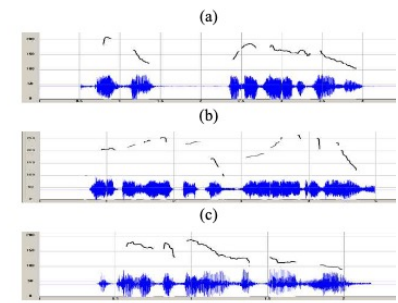
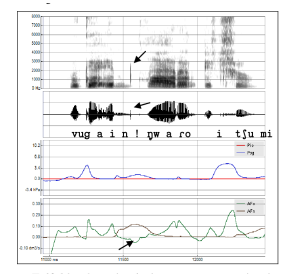
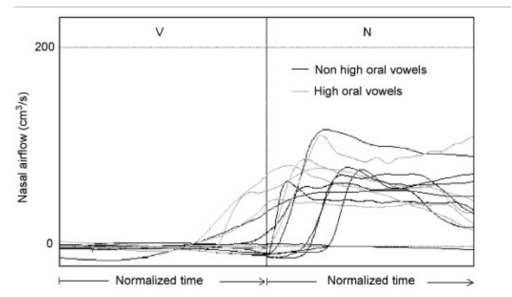
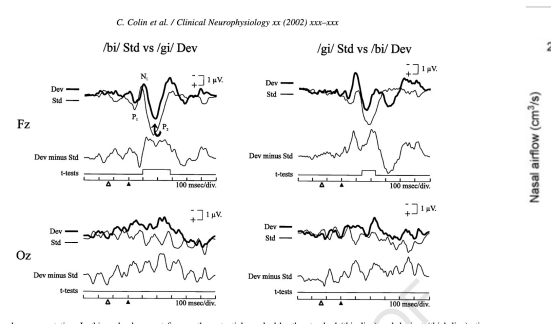


FIGURE 6.1. Audio waveform, subglottal pressure (Ps) [given as Psg in the graph] and oral Airflow (AFo) for the Amharic sentence [kulum'wafino] "Everybody is noisy." The arrows indicate the drop in Ps for the voiced [fi] and the corresponding increase in oral airflow. Ps is given in hPa (1  $\text{cmH}_2\text{O} = 1.2 \text{ hPa}$ ) and oral airflow in  $\text{dm}^3/\text{s}$ .

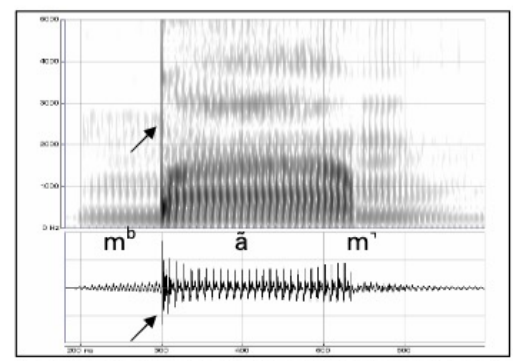
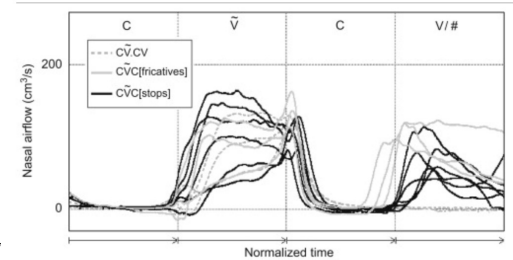
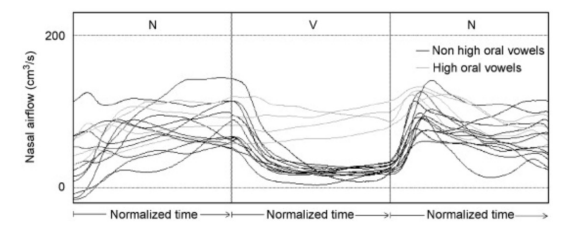
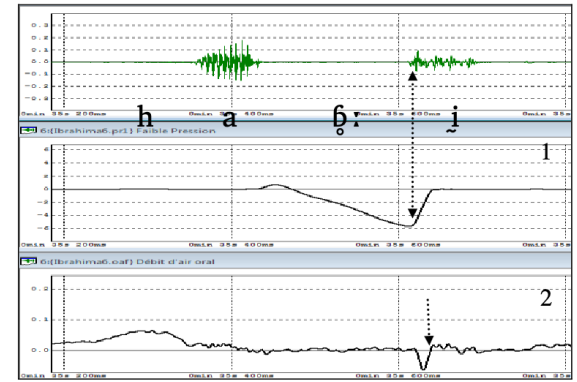


Figure 2. Spectrogram and audio wave form of the word [m<sup>b</sup>am<sup>i</sup>] 'to tighten'.

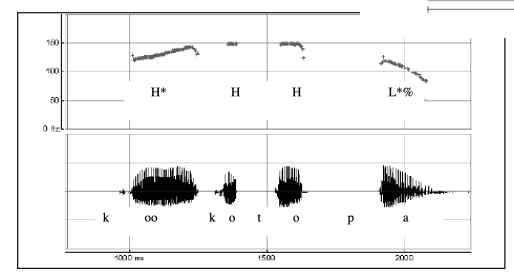
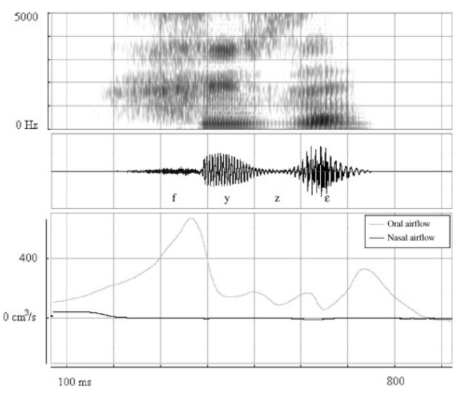
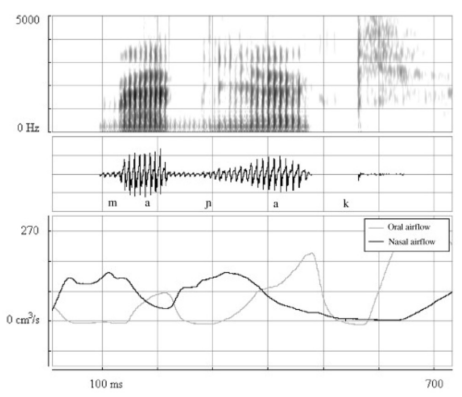


Figure 5. Fo contour and audio waveform of the word kookotopa 'bridge'.

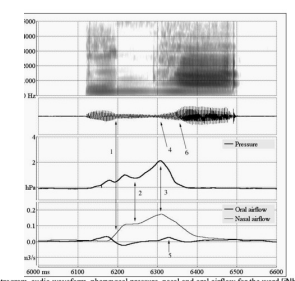


Figure 1. Spectrogram, audio waveform, pharyngeal pressure, nasal and oral airflow for the word [kookotopa] 'bridge'. 1) start of the nasal consonant on the audio waveform; 2) stabilization in the nasal airflow and in pharyngeal pressure; 3) maximum of nasal airflow and of pharyngeal pressure; 4) start of an increase in the audio waveform amplitude; 5) maximum oral airflow; 6) start of the next vowel.

giving rise to numerous articles

## LES TRILLES BILABIALES DU MANGBETU

Didier DEMOLIN\*

Relation entre pression sous glottique et intensité

étude des voyelles du français

Véronique Lecuit<sup>1\*</sup> et Didier Demolin<sup>2</sup>

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Tél. (32 2) 650 48 18 – Fax (32 2) 650 22 27 – M. 011 2 650 48 18

FROM ALVEOLAR [F] TO  
THE SYMBIOSIS OF DIALECTOLOGY,  
SOCIOLINGUISTICS, PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY  
TO EXPLAIN SOUND CHANGE IN PROGRESS

Hans Van de Velde  
Fryske Akademy  
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hvandevelde@fryske-akademy.nl

Didier Demolin  
Université Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle  
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## The multiple dimensions of language sound systems

*Contribution of African and Amerindian languages*

Didier Demolin

## An MRI Study of Articulatory Compensation

Didier Demolin, Angélica Sampaio, Thierry Metens

Université de Bruxelles

## AN MRI STUDY OF FRENCH VOWELS

Didier Demolin\*, Jean-Marie Hombert°, Véronique Lecuit\*,

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## Phonological Universals and the Control and Regulation of Speech Production

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## The Rhythm Class Hypothesis and Indigenous Languages

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## SOUND SYMBOLISM IN !xóõ

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Hans Van de Velde  
Fryske Akademy

### The multiple dimensions of language sound systems

## The vowel system of Nasa Yuwe

Didier Demolin; Angélique Amelot; Lise Crevier-Buchman; Tulio Rojas; Esteban Diaz

languages

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## BRASILIAN PORTUGUESE A NASOLABIOSCOPIC STUDY OF NASALIZED DIPHTHONGS IN

## AN MRI STUDY OF FRENCH VOWELS

Demolin\*, Jean-Marie Hombert°, Véronique Lecuit\*,  
Christoph Segebarth\*#, and Alain Soquet\*

## A COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO THE LARYNGEAL SOUND SOURCE OF PRIMATES: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EVOLUTION OF SPEECH

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## The Rhythm Class Hypothesis and Indigenous Languages

## Vowel and consonant effects on subglottal pressure

Didier Demolin; Silvain Gerbers; Sergio Hassid

September 4-5, 2015

## The contribution of the kymograph to the description of African languages

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## Experimental methods in phonology

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## THE INFLUENCE OF AERODYNAMIC CONSTRAINTS ON THE SHAPE AND THE DYNAMICS OF PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Didier Demolin

## Acoustic characteristics of Ekonda scrapers

Didier Demolin; Stephanie Weisser

## The vowel system of Nasa Yuwe

## REAL TIME MRI AND ARTICULATORY COORDINATIONS IN VOWELS

Didier Demolin\*, Thierry Metens<sup>o</sup> and Alain Soquet\*

\*Laboratoire de Phonétique, Université Libre de Bruxelles

A NASOEIBESCOPIC STUDY OF NASALIZED DIPHTHONGS IN

Christoph Segebarth\*#, and Alain Soquet\*

OCTOBER 01 2017

## The whistled source of Gibbon vocalizations

Shi Yu; Didier Demolin

## EVOLUTION OF SPEECH

Didier Demolin  
Laboratoire de phonétique et phonologie, CNRS-UMR 7018, Sorbonne nouvelle  
didier.demolin@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr

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ds in phonology

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N !xóõ

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THE  
SHAPE AND THE DYNAMICS OF PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Didier Demolin

Rita Demasi, Didier Demolin, Angélique Amelot, Lise Crevier-Buchman

BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE

A NASOLABIALSCOPIC STUDY OF NASALIZED DIPHTHONGS I

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IN VOWELS

ELS

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effects on subglottal pressure

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Didier Demolin; Silvain Gerbers; Sergio Hassid



## Variations in the anatomic constraints on sound patterns

Didier Demolin

uage sound sy

categories upon which language is built. About this relation [Ohala](#) (1990: 168) proposed the following: 'My own view is that between phonology and phonetics, phonology is the super-ordinate discipline, not because it has accomplished more or is better developed -the opposite may be true- but simply because it looks at and seeks answers to a much broader range of

## Interactions mimétiques entre locuteurs : une étude expérimentale

Véronique Delvaux<sup>\*</sup>, Didier Demolin<sup>+</sup>, Alain Soquet<sup>#</sup>

Didier Demolin

## Recursion in non human primate vocalizations

Didier Demolin (1)

ANALYSIS OF NASALIZED DIPHTHONGS IN

SOU

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Phonology Laboratory, Université Libre de Bruxelles

## Perception des tons du mandarin par les apprenants français : effets des contextes segmental et syllabique

Qing Zhou (1), Didier Demolin (1)

Didier Demolin; Angélique Amelot; Lise Crevier-Buchman; Tulio Rojas;

## ÉTUDE DU SYSTÈME VOCALIQUE FANG PAR RÉSONANCE MAGNÉTIQUE

Didier Demolin, Jean-Marie Hombert, Pierre Ondo, Christoph Segebarth

**Demolin, D. (2002).** The search for primitives in phonology and the explanation of sound patterns: the contribution of fieldwork studies, In C. Gussenhoven e N. Warner (eds.), Papers in Laboratory Phonology 7.

Didier Demolin

Laboratoire de phonétique et phonologie, CNRS UMR 7018 Sorbonne nouvelle

Didier Demolin; Silvain Gerbe

Didier Demolin  
Laboratoire de phonétique et phonologie, CNRS  
didier.demolin@sorbonne-

## A Phonetic Study of Subglottal Pressure Effects on Stress and Fundamental Frequency

Shi Yu, Sergio Hassid, Didier Demolin

pressure

## Variations in the anatomic constraints on sound patterns

Didier Demolin

## Complexity in phonological systems

Didier Demolin  
LPP, Université de Sorbonne nouvelle, Paris 3.

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## Subglottal pressure differences between voiceless bilabial stops and ejectives

Didier Demolin<sup>1</sup>, Sergio Hassid<sup>2</sup>

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## Subglottal pressure in bilabial stops and ejectives

Didier Demolin<sup>1</sup>, Sergio Hassid<sup>2</sup>

[Automatic Processing of Aerodynamic Parameters in Parkinsonian Dysarthria](#)

Clara Ponchard, Alain Ghio, Lise Crevier Buchman, Didier Demolin  
Pages 60-76

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# The Rhythm Class Hypothesis and Indigenous Languages

Luciana R. Storto & Didier Demolin  
Universidade de São Paulo and Université Libre de Bruxelles

## Complexity in phonological systems

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LPP, Université de Sorbonne nouvelle, Paris 3

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## Whispery voiced nasal stops in Rwanda

Didier Demolin<sup>\*</sup> and Véronique Delvaux<sup>\*+</sup>

## Dimensions of language sound systems

African and Amerindian languages

Didier Demolin

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# Laboratory Sociolinguistics

From the book [Cognitive Sociolinguistics Revisited](#)

[Hans Van de Velde](#), [Anne-France Pinget](#), [Cesko Voeten](#) and [Didier Demolin](#)

<https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110733945-045>

## Dimensions of language sound systems

African and Amerindian languages

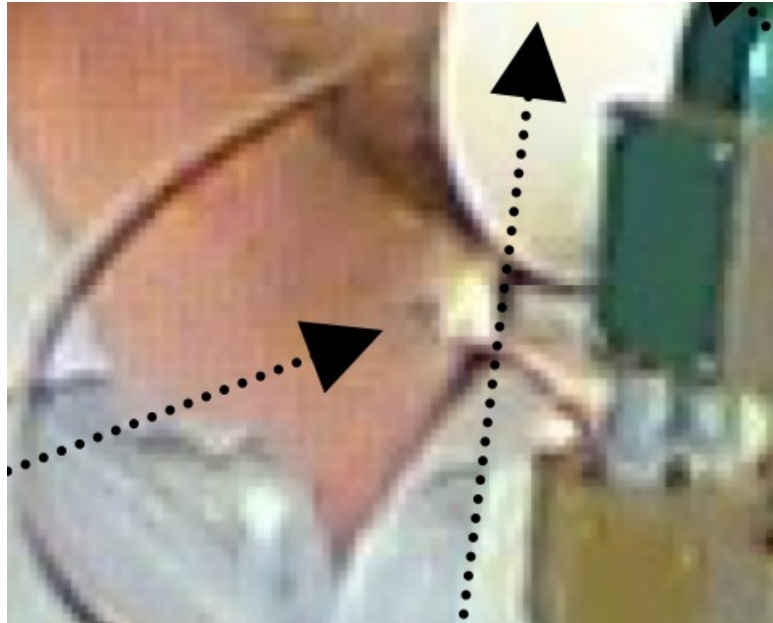
Didier Demolin

## A COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO THE LARYNGEAL SOURCE OF PRIMATES: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE

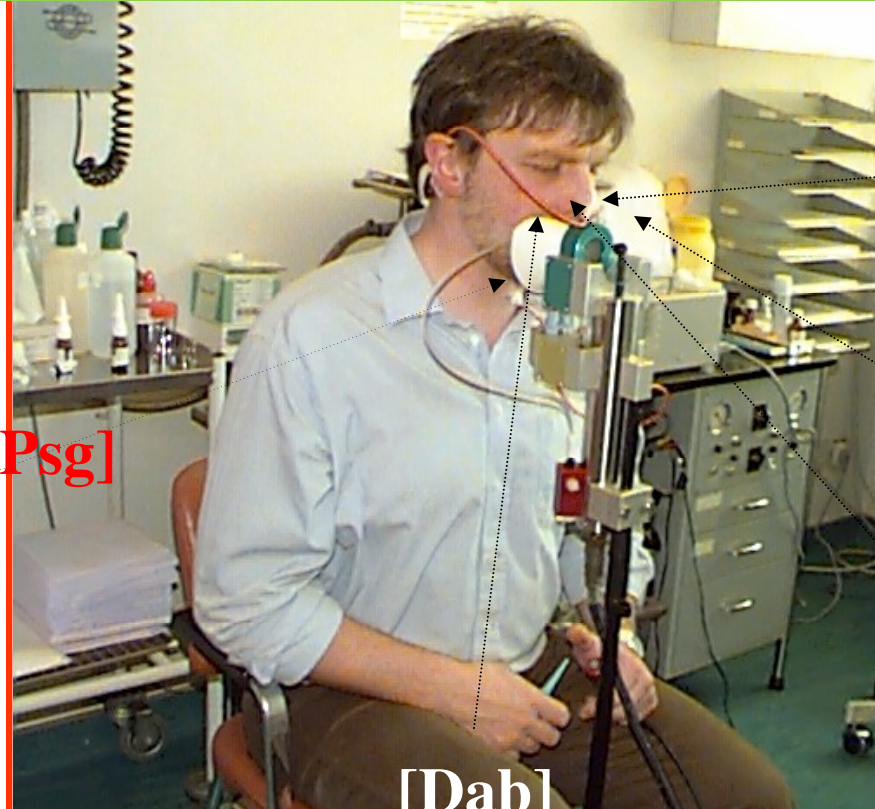
### A NASOFIBERSCOPIC STUDY OF NASALIZED DIPHTHONGS IN BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE

Rita Demasi, Didier Demolin, Angelique Amelot, Lise Crevier-Buchman

# And John and Didier dared to make direct measurement of Ps



[Psg]



[Dan]

[Audio]

[Pio]

[Dahl]

Inter-vowel, inter-speaker variability

A needle between the first and the second rings of the trachea or between the cricoid cartilage and the first tracheal ring to record the subglottal pressure

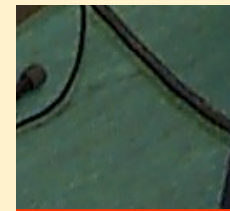


Figure 4: Variation of  $f_0$  and Ps of sentence 30 (group 5)

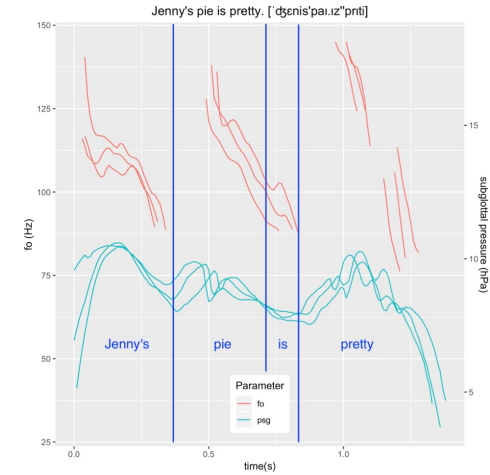
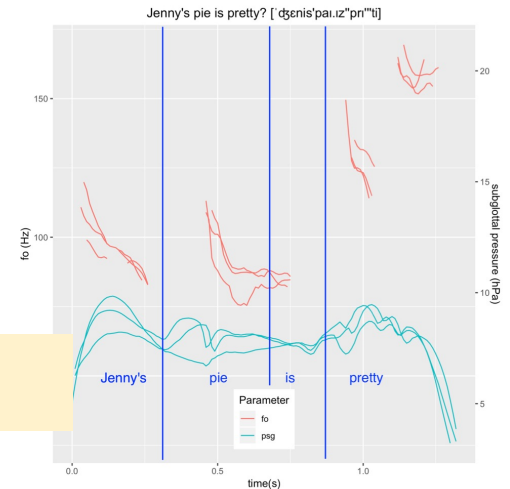


Figure 5: Variation of  $f_0$  and Ps of sentence 34 (group 5)





in particular in the relationship between Ps, Rg and FO

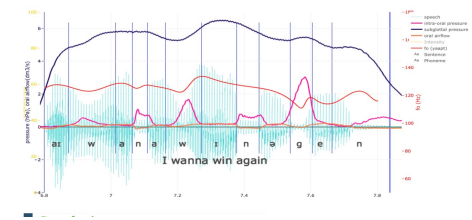
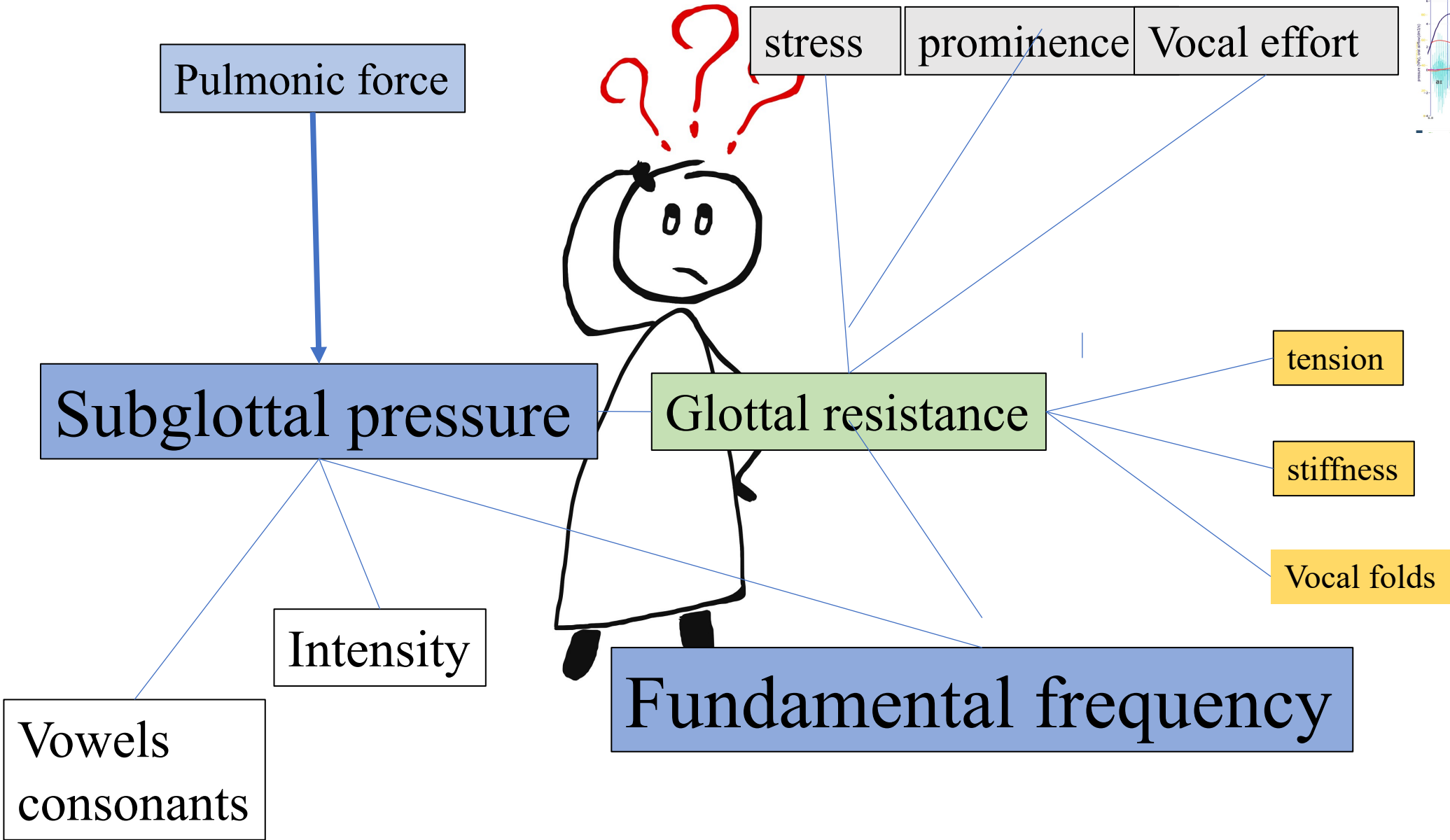


Figure 4: Variation of  $f_0$  and  $P_s$  of sentence 30 (group 5)

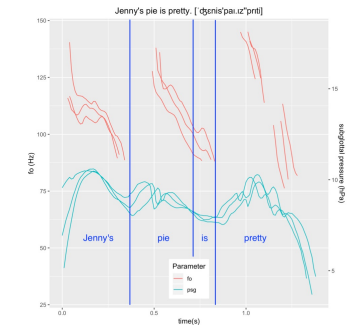
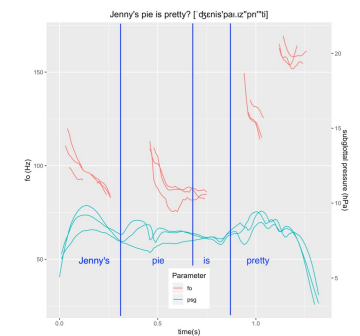


Figure 5: Variation of  $f_0$  and  $P_s$  of sentence 34 (group 5)



*Comment ça marche?*

Sound changes???

Rear sounds???



The basic scientific question Didier is asking : « is How does it work? »

What is controlled and what is not controlled? How the sounds, the frequent ones and particularly the rare ones are produced?



Nasal  
aerodynamics

The same spiritual  
father

Professor

History of  
phonetics

instrumentations

Invasive  
invest

Old books

In commun

3) The same taste for ethology

Ethology

Paris

Heart brake

mountain

physicians

Many mutual  
riends

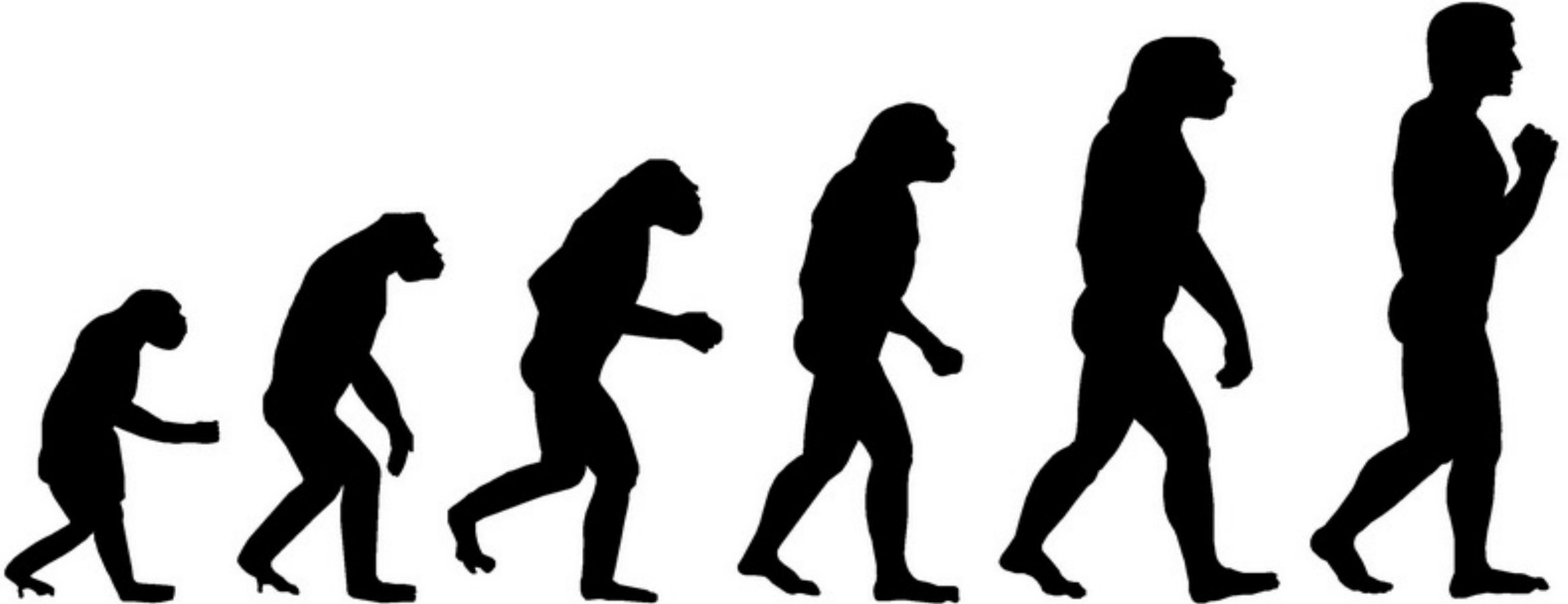




# John refined the Frequency Code

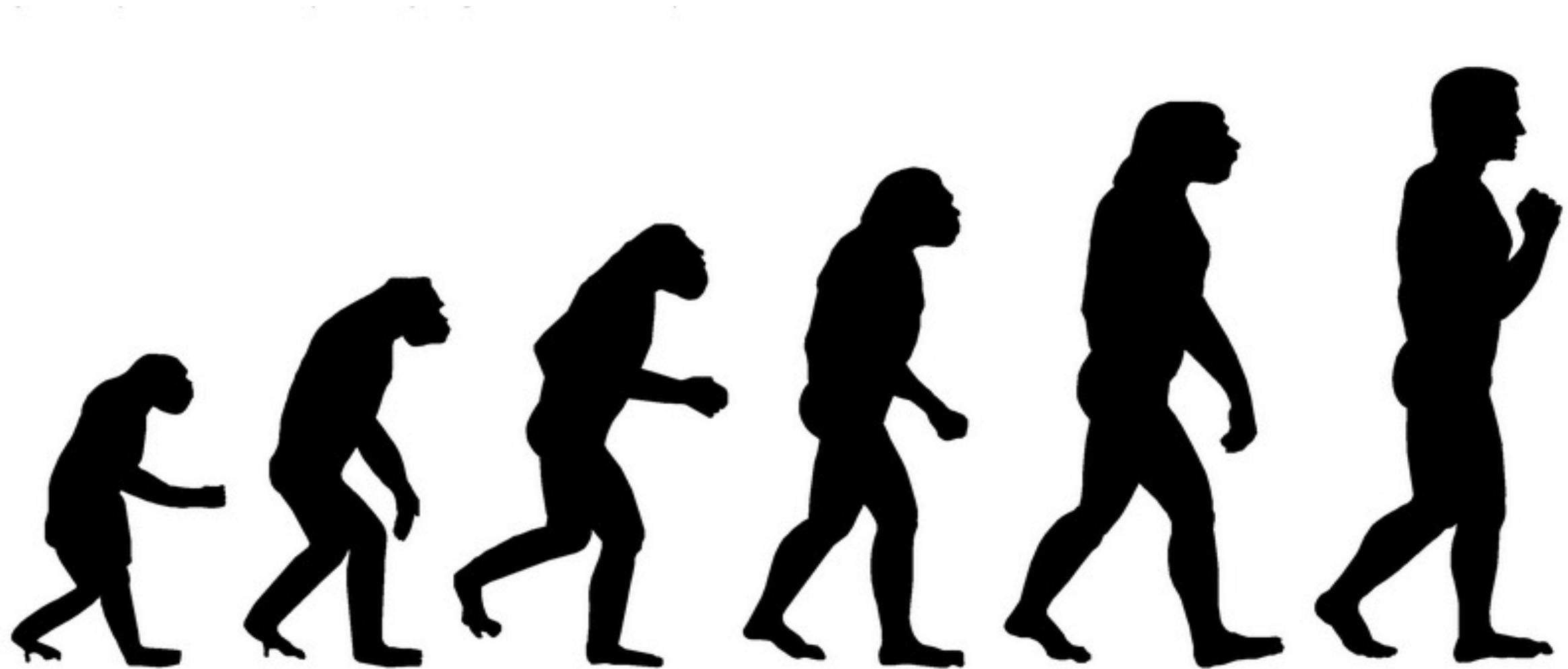


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

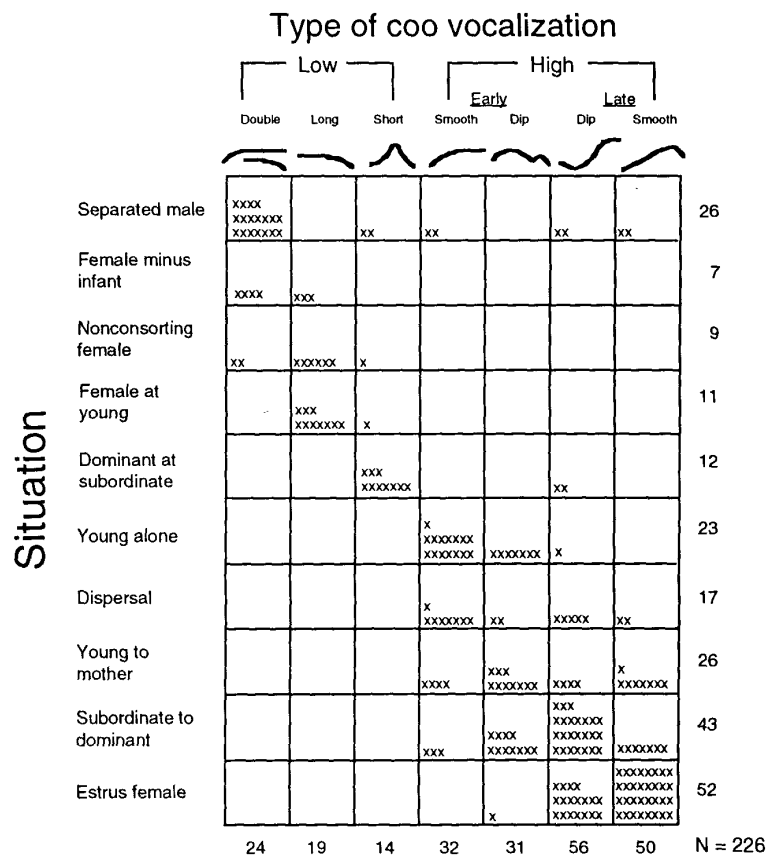
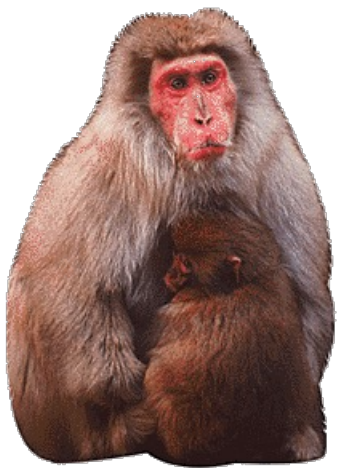


# Ethology

Ethology, the study of animal behavior.



# John refined the Frequency Code.



the **longer** a cavity  
the **lower** its resonances  
**vocal tract resonances are called formant**



the **more massive** the vocal folds  
the **lower** the rate of vibration  
**fundamental frequency**

the ancestral role of formant perception and Fo  
was to provide indexical cue **about the size** and **age** of the conspecifics





# John refined the Frequency Code



- **high Fo : dependency**
- **non-finality, subordination**

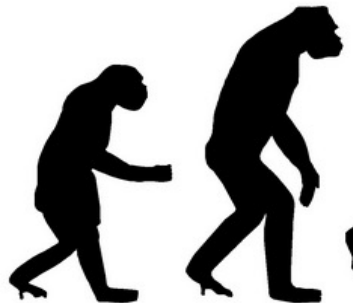
**1) continuation**

**2) question**

(the question depends on the answer and the speaker depends on the goodwill of the listener)

**3) politeness, uncertainty, doubt, submissive**

**high tone: femininity and smallness**

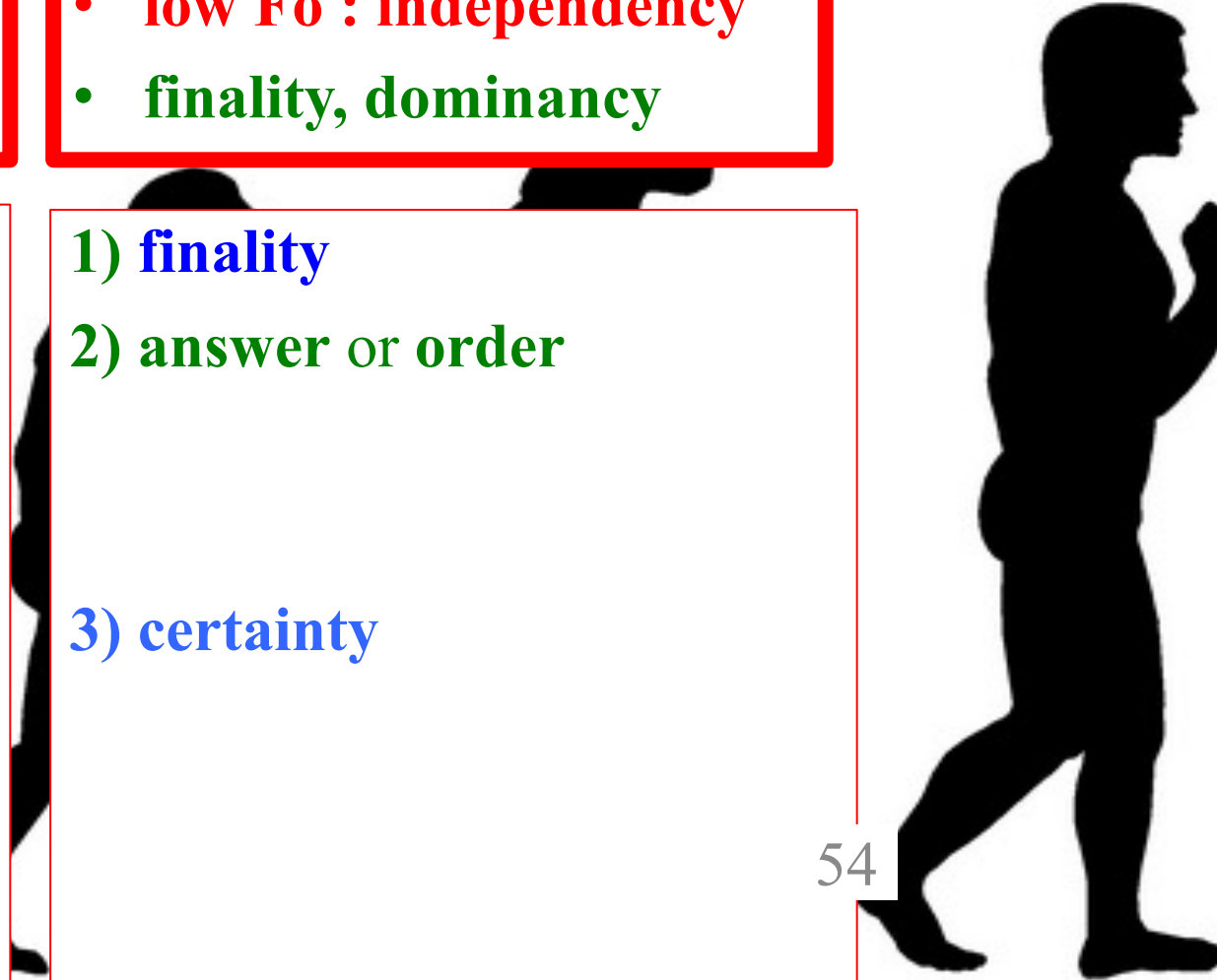


- **low Fo : independency**
- **finality, dominance**

**1) finality**

**2) answer or order**

**3) certainty**



# Didier : vocalization of chimpanzees and bonobos



## Karisote research station Rwanda

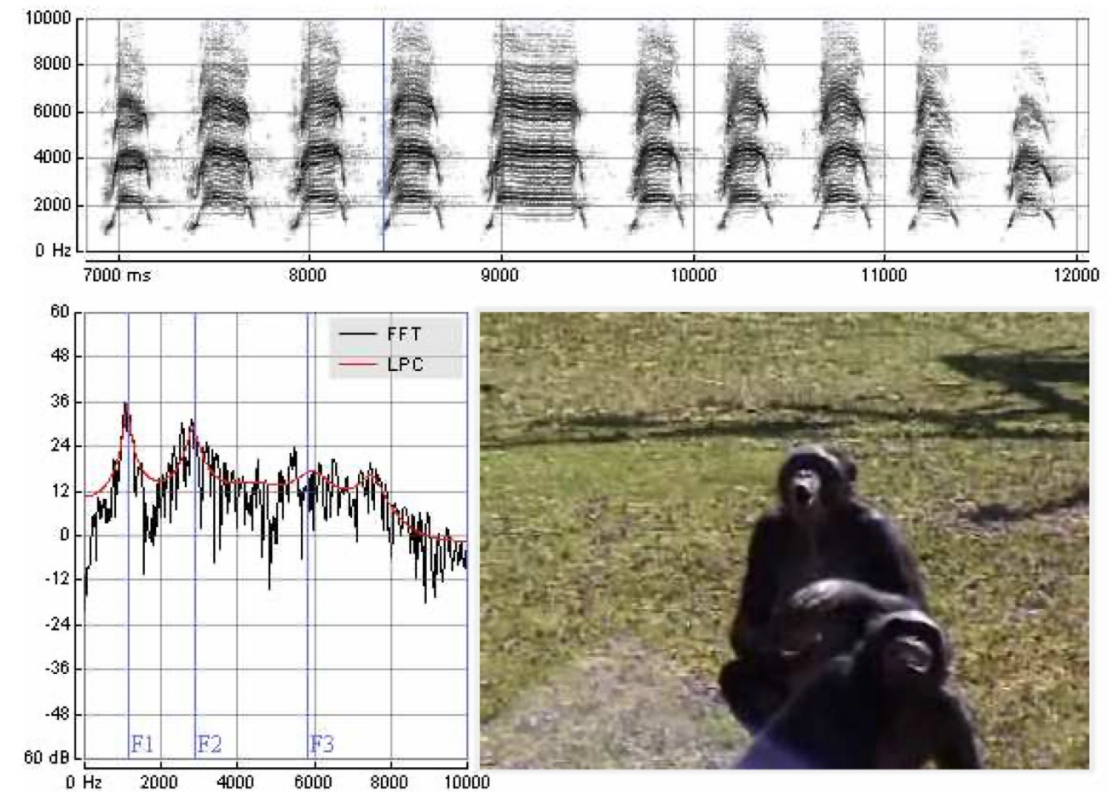
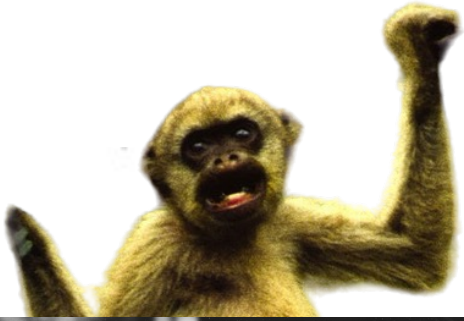


Figure 2. Spectrogram, FFT and LPC spectra of a bark scream produced by the Bonobo staying at the back of the picture. The spectrogram suggests that the formants and the set of harmonics are produced by two different sources. The barks are also modulated in duration.



# Didier's vocalization of chimpanzees and bonobos: publications



Deducing articulatory capacities of Bonobos from acoustic data  
Demolin, Didier; Delvaux, Véronique <sup>U</sup>

some of the essential mental processes underlying human language are shared by primates, some are not.

Language. New-York, World Scientific. 428-429.

## PROSODIC FEATURES IN NORTHERN MURIQUIS VOCALIZATIONS

DIDIER DEMOLIN, CÉSAR ADES, and FRANCISCO D. C. MENDES

Local data between the vocal folds of humans and bonobo. Evolution of

## The whistled source of Gibbon vocalizations

Shi Yu; Didier Demolin

**A COMPARISON OF THE ARTICULATORY PARAMETERS INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF SOUND OF BONOBO AND MODERN HUMANS**

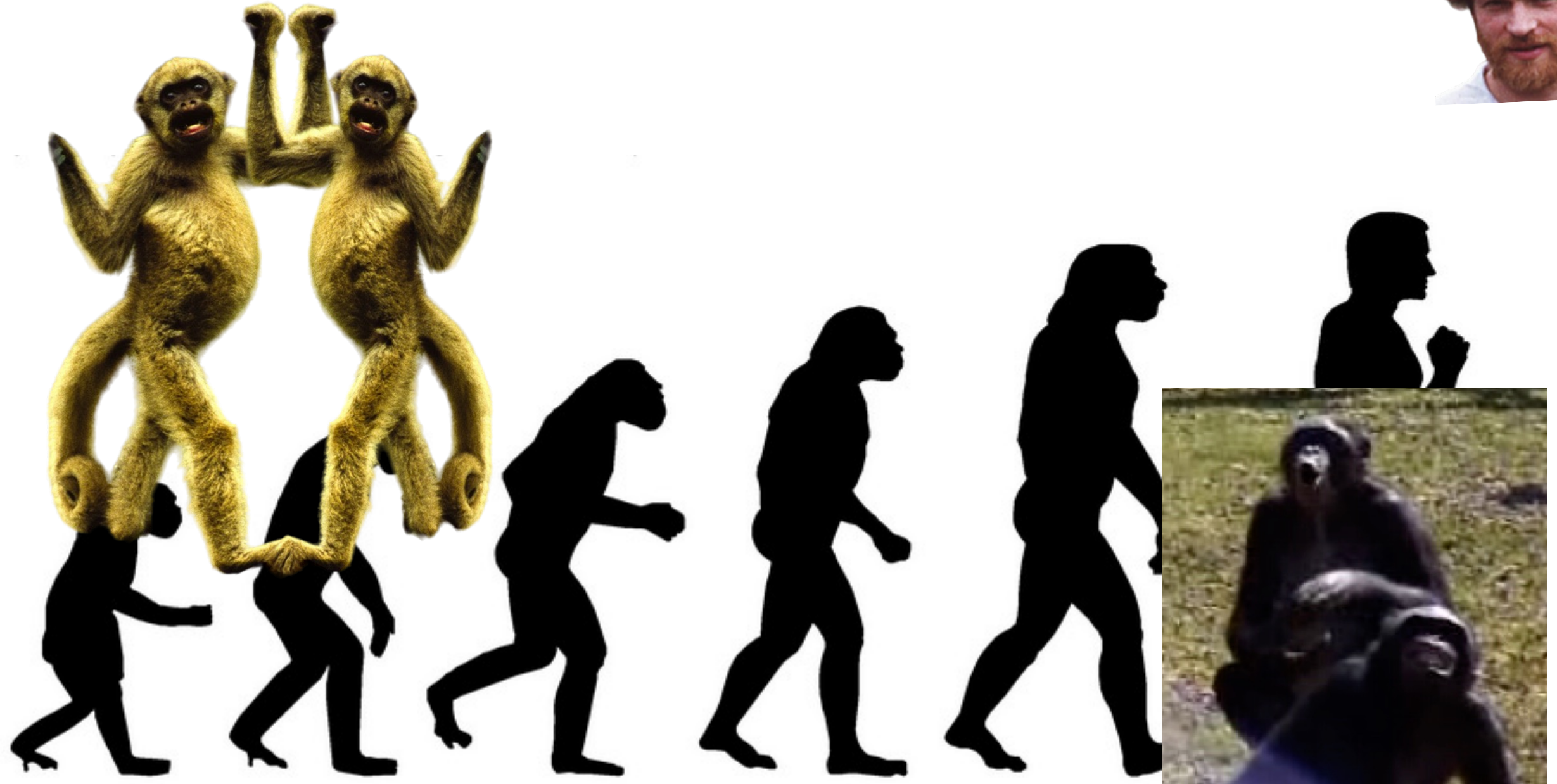
**A COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO THE LARYNGEAL SOUND SOURCE OF PRIMATES: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EVOLUTION OF SPEECH**

Didier Demolin





Didier also discovered syntax and recursion in animal communication



And was interviewed recently on TV5 about it ☺



Safari Fichier Édition Présentation Historique Signets Développement Fenêtre Aide

www.dailymotion.com/video/x5qyx04

DAILYMOTION Recherche

+ Uploader → Se connecter S'inscrire

TV5MONDE DIRECT INFO

0:01 4:12

64 LE MONDE EN FRANÇAIS

Le langage des muriquis : plus sophistiqué que le français !

TV5MONDE

Suivre Like Favori Partager Signaler

il y a 6 ans

Didier Demolin est linguiste, professeur à l'université Paris-III Sorbonne nouvelle, spécialiste d'acoustique et de phonétique. Depuis de longues années, il étudie le langage des primates et il est formel : « Les muriquis disposent du système de communication vocale le plus avancé découvert jusqu'ici dans le monde non humain. »

Masquer

Recommandée

RDC: "Aucune force politique ne représente une alternative à Kabila"

TV5MONDE

DF #193 - LOVETCH - Pourquoi participer aux Olympiades de français ?

TV5MONDE

En marche! : "On élit un député qu'on connaît!" (Thomas Cantaloube)

TV5MONDE

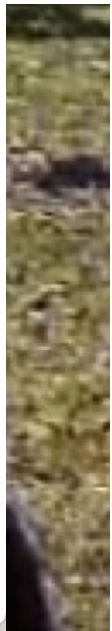
Francophonie: Une revue à l'écoute

Nexity Vous apprend à investir

Une formation pour comprendre, créer, et réussir vos projets d'investissement immobilier

Nexity

En Savoir Plus

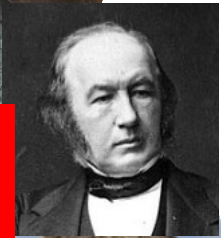
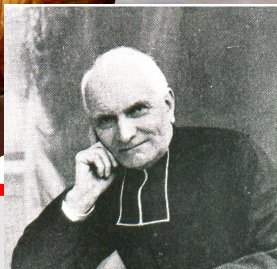






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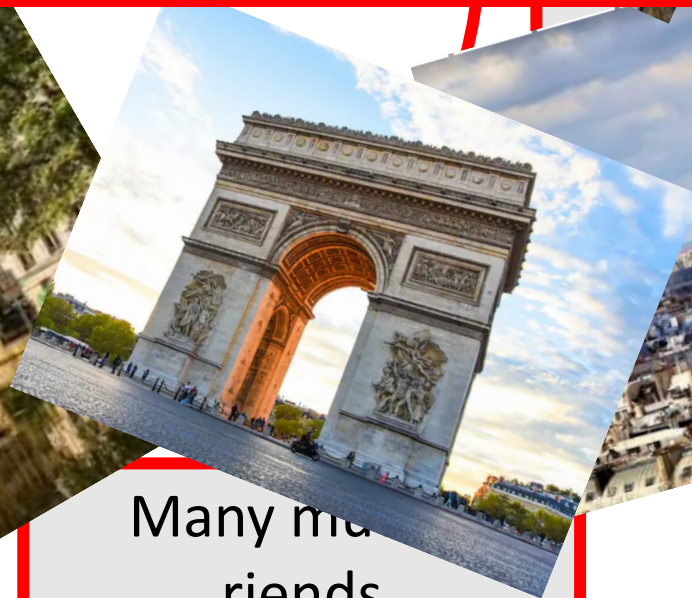


Invasive

inves

4) Both love Paris and Paris love both !

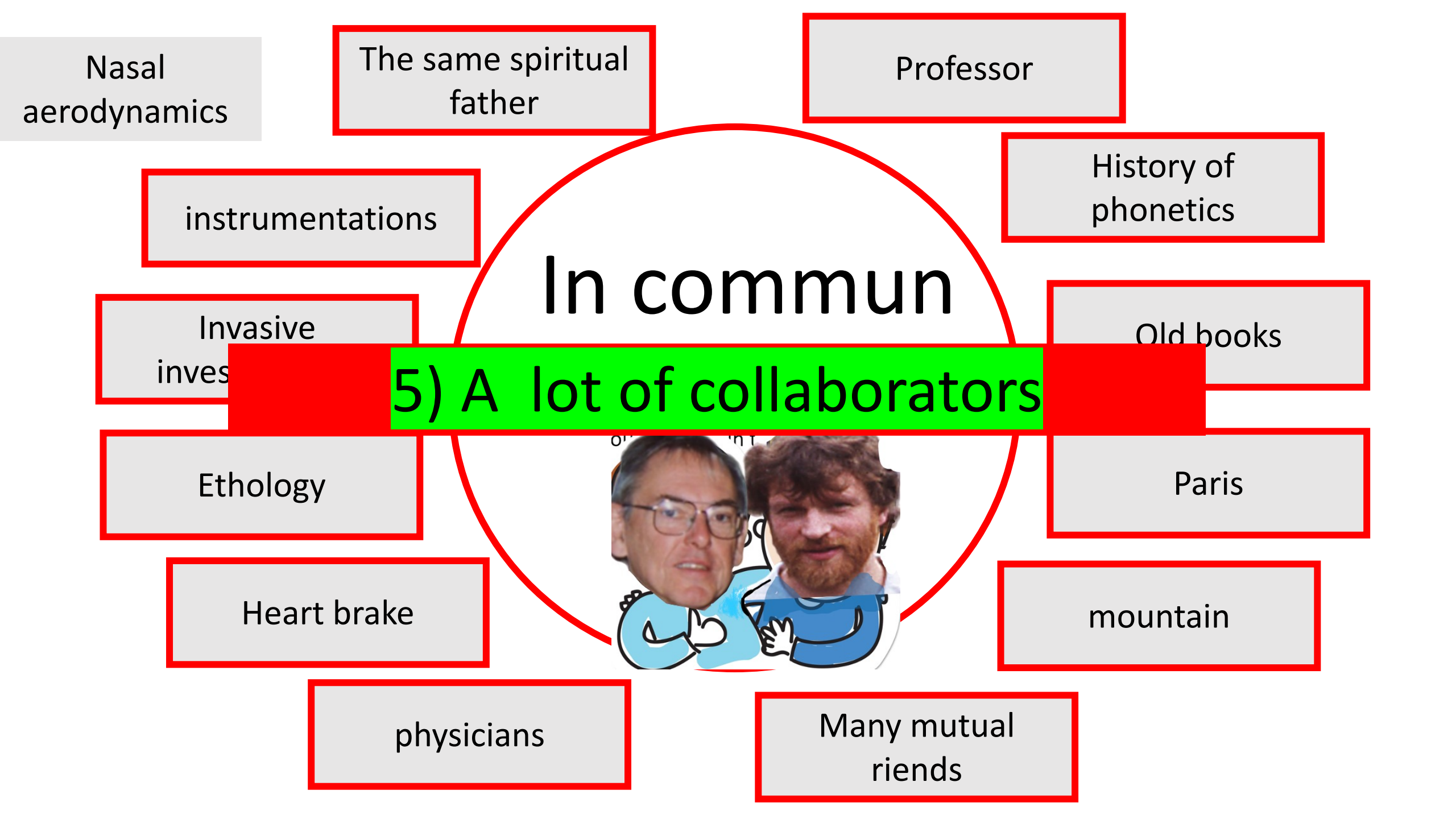
biology



Many ma  
riends







Both have a lot of collaborators around the world!!!



- **Belgium and France**
- **Brazil** (Francisco Mendes, César Ades, Eleonora Albano et Luciana Storto)
- **China** (Fang Hu)
- **Colombia** (Tulio Rojas)
- **Congo** (André Montingea)
- **Edimburg** (Alice Turk, Jim Scobbie)
- **Ethiopia** (Moges Yigezu)
- **France**
- **Glasgow** (Jane Stuart)
- **Japan** (Shigeki Kaji et Hiroshi Nakagawa)
- **Mexico** (Esther Zendejas)
- **South Africa** (Tony Traill)
- **United States** (Peter Ladefoged, John Ohala et John Kingston)



Nasal  
aerodynamics

The same spiritual  
father

Professor

History of  
phonetics

instrumentations

In commun

Invasive  
invest

Old books

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ris

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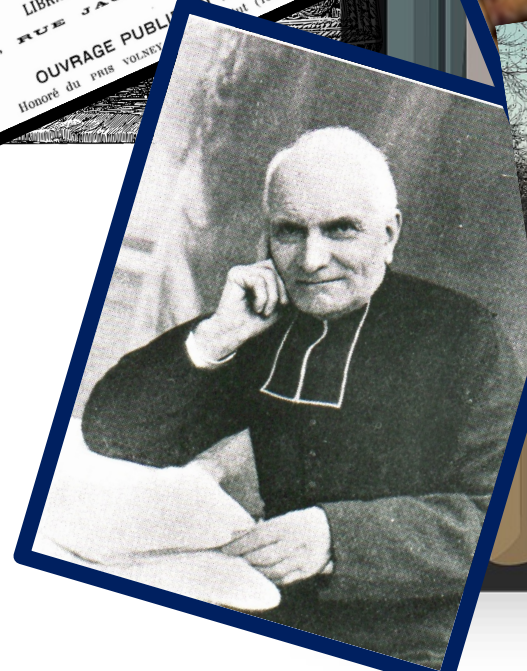
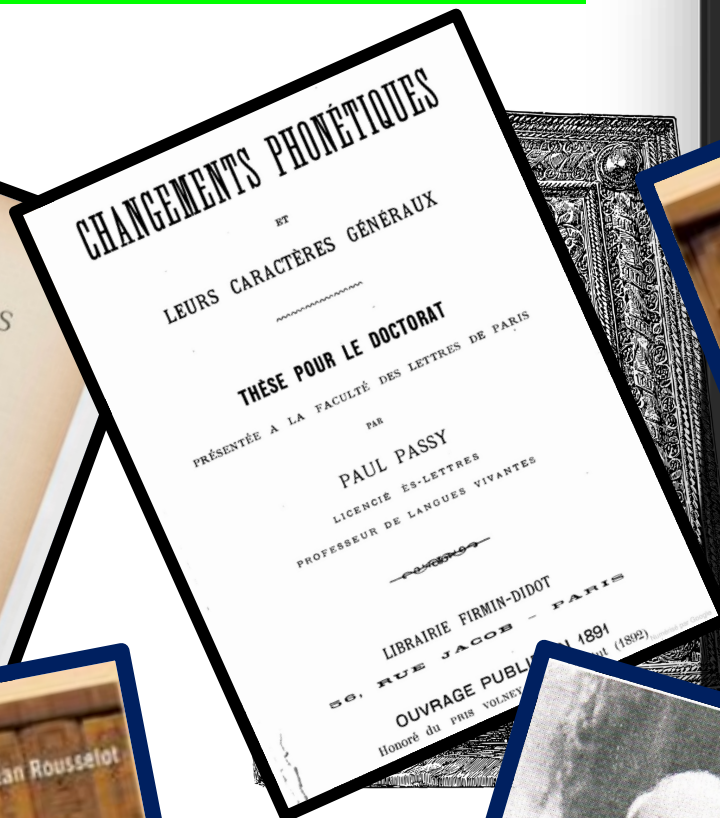
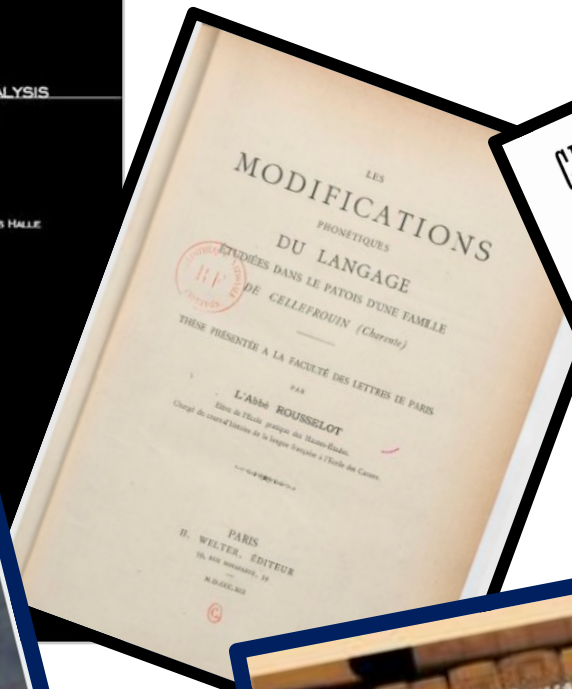
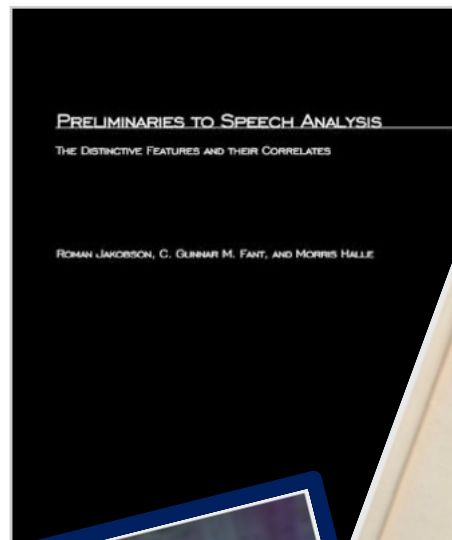
6) The taste for old books,  
Particularly John,  
And the knowledge on what was  
already done before

physicians

Many mutual  
riends



The same taste for old phonetic books!!!



Preliminaries to Speech Analysis: The Distinctive Features and Their Correlates  
Jakobson, Roman, Gunnar, C., Fant, M.

Nasal  
aerodynamics

The same spiritual  
father

Professor

instrumentations

History of  
phonetics

In commun

Invasive  
investigations

Old books

7) Excellent teachers !

Ethology

Paris

Heart brake

mountain

physicians

Many mutual  
riends





All three have taught in Paris ☺ and have the same reputation as excellent teachers



- Phonétique expérimentale
- Phonétique physiologique et acoustique
- Phonétique générale
- Phonétique comparée des langues du monde
- Linguistique historique et comparative

**Professor at**  
*Sorbonne nouvelle, Paris3 (2014 >)*  
*Stendhal, Grenoble 3 (2010-14)*  
*Libre de Bruxelles (2003 and later)*  
*Aix-en-Provence (1996-1999)*

- **VISITING PROFESSOR**
- 2022: Porto Novo, Benin.
- 2018: Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2016: Holland;
- 2003-2014, 1999: Brazil
- 2002: Congo
- 2000: Ethiopia





Nasal  
aerodynamics

The same spiritual  
father

Professor

instrumentations

History of  
phonetics

Invasive  
investigations

Old books

Ethology

Paris



In commun

8) Humor



Both also inherited the sometimes Rousselot's borderline humor,  
especially John.

Didier has more Belgian humour,  
that is to say more inclined to make fun of himself than of ... phonologists.

Special to  
Didier

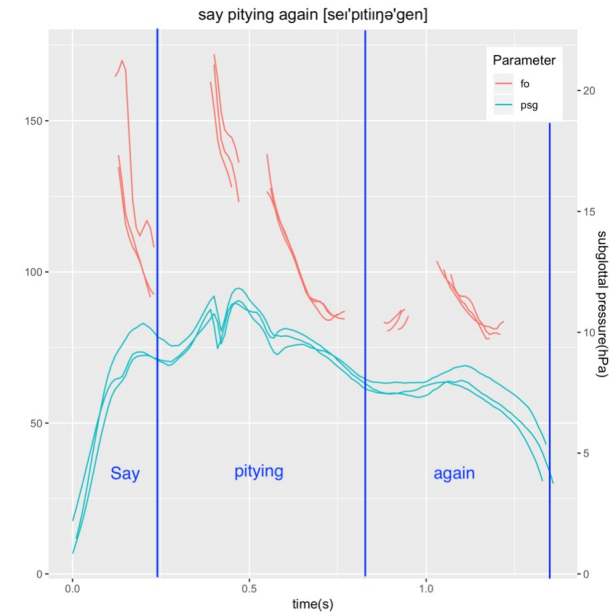
1) Didier created one of the first  
aerodynamic databases



Didier created one of the first aerodynamic databases



This database is one of the very few databases of the aerodynamics of speech production available today to the scientific community.



In line with the speech archives, created by Ferdinand Brunot in 1911.

## Speech Aerodynamics Database, Tools and Visualisation

Shi Yu (1) , Clara Ponchard (1) , Roland Trouville (1) , Sergio Hassid (2) , Didier Demolin (1)

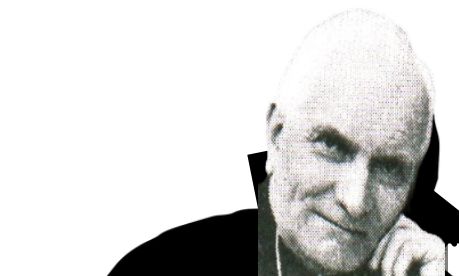
udra att



# Special to Didier

Jean-Pierre and John were more interested in explaining sound changes

2) Didier studied a lot of languages, rare phonemes, possible phonemes



# DD studied of lot of languages and rare phonemes



**Mangbetu**

Insights from the Field

Didier Demolin



**Namtrik Colombia**



**Hadza Tanzania**



**Nasa Yuwe Colombia**



DD studied of lot of languages and rare phonemes



Karitiana Brasil



Lokalane Botswana !xóõ

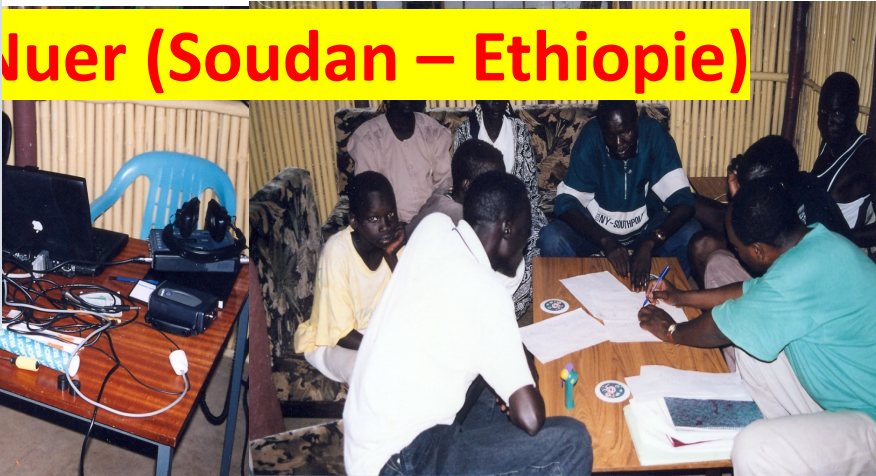


Iraqw Tanzania

- Congo
- Ethiopia
- Botswana
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Brazil
- Colombia



Harvard Ituri research project



Juer (Soudan – Ethiopie)





Special to  
Didier

3) Didier published with quite a  
number of researchers



# Didier published with quite a number of researchers

<u>Alain Soquet</u>	<u>Christoph Segebarth</u>	<u>Monique Radeau</u>
<u>Alexis Dehais Underdown</u>	<u>Christophe Savariaux</u>	<u>Nathalie Vallée</u>
<u>Ana Georgina Flesia</u>	<u>Clara Ponchard</u>	<u>Paul Vignes</u>
<u>Angélique Amelot</u>	<u>Francesca D'Errico</u>	<u>Pierre Badin</u>
<u>Anne Cros</u>	<u>Françoise Raby</u>	<u>Qing Zhou</u>
<u>Anne-France Pinget</u>	<u>Gérard Bailly</u>	<u>Rita Demasi</u>
<u>Antonio Galves</u>	<u>H. Raeymaekers</u>	<u>Roland Trouville</u>
<u>Arthur Givois</u>	<u>Hans Van de Velde , ,</u>	<u>Rosario Signorello</u>
<u>Barbara Kühnert</u>	<u>Ibrahima Abdoul H. Cissé</u>	<u>Sergio Hassid</u>
<u>Bernard Harmegnies</u>	<u>Isabella Poggi</u>	<u>Shi Yu</u>
<u>Bernard Teston</u>	<u>Jean-Marie Hombert</u>	<u>Shi Yu</u>
<u>Bjorn Lindblom</u>	<u>Lise Crevier-Buchman</u>	<u>Thierry Metens</u>
<u>Bruno Nazarian</u>	<u>Marie-Pierre Lissor</u>	<u>Thomas Hueber</u>
<u>Cécile Colin</u>	<u>Martine George</u>	<u>Véronique Delvaux</u>
<u>Cédric Gendrot</u>	<u>Peter Branderud</u>	<u>Véronique Lecuit</u>
<u>Cesko Voeten</u>		

Special to  
Didier

4) Didier has a number of collaborators around  
the world (as John)



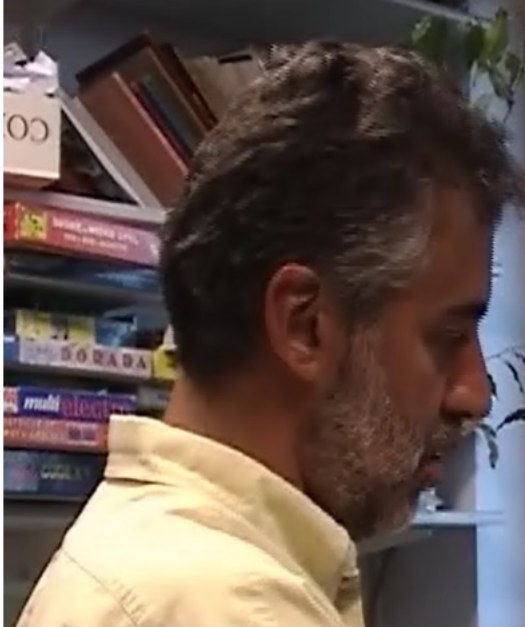


# A lot of French and collaborators due in part to multiple stays in research

- 2022- : Chercheur EVALAB - Equipe Anthropologie Évolutive, Institut des sciences de l'évolution, Montpellier
- 2014- : Chercheur Laboratoire de Phonétique et Phonologie, Paris 3, UMR 7018
- 2010-2014 : Chercheur Gipsa-Lab Grenoble
- 2002 : Chef de Travaux Université Libre de Bruxelles
- 1993-2001 : Premier assistant Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- 1992-1998 : Chercheur, Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage, Université de Lyon2.
- 1991-1993 : Assistant ad interim université Libre de Bruxelles.
- 1990-1992 : Chercheur, Laboratoire des Langues et Civilisations de tradition orale (LACITO-CNRS, Paris).
- 1989-1991 : Chercheur au Département de Linguistique, Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- 1987-1990 : Chercheur, American Museum of National History.
- 1987-1988 : Chercheur, Harvard Ituri project.
- 1983-1986 : Chercheur, Centre Ethnomusicologique Paul Collaer, Tervuren.
- 1980-1982 : Chercheur, Institut National de Recherche Scientifique Butare, Rwanda

And DD maintains a close collaboration with medical doctors, which is essential for fundamental research in phonetics

Erasme Hospital,  
Université Libre de Bruxelles,  
Sergio Hassid



Hôpital Foch,  
Suresnes,  
Lise Crevier, Stéphane Hans



From profile, I could not find another one 😊

Special to  
Didier

5) Didier studied several types of  
subject

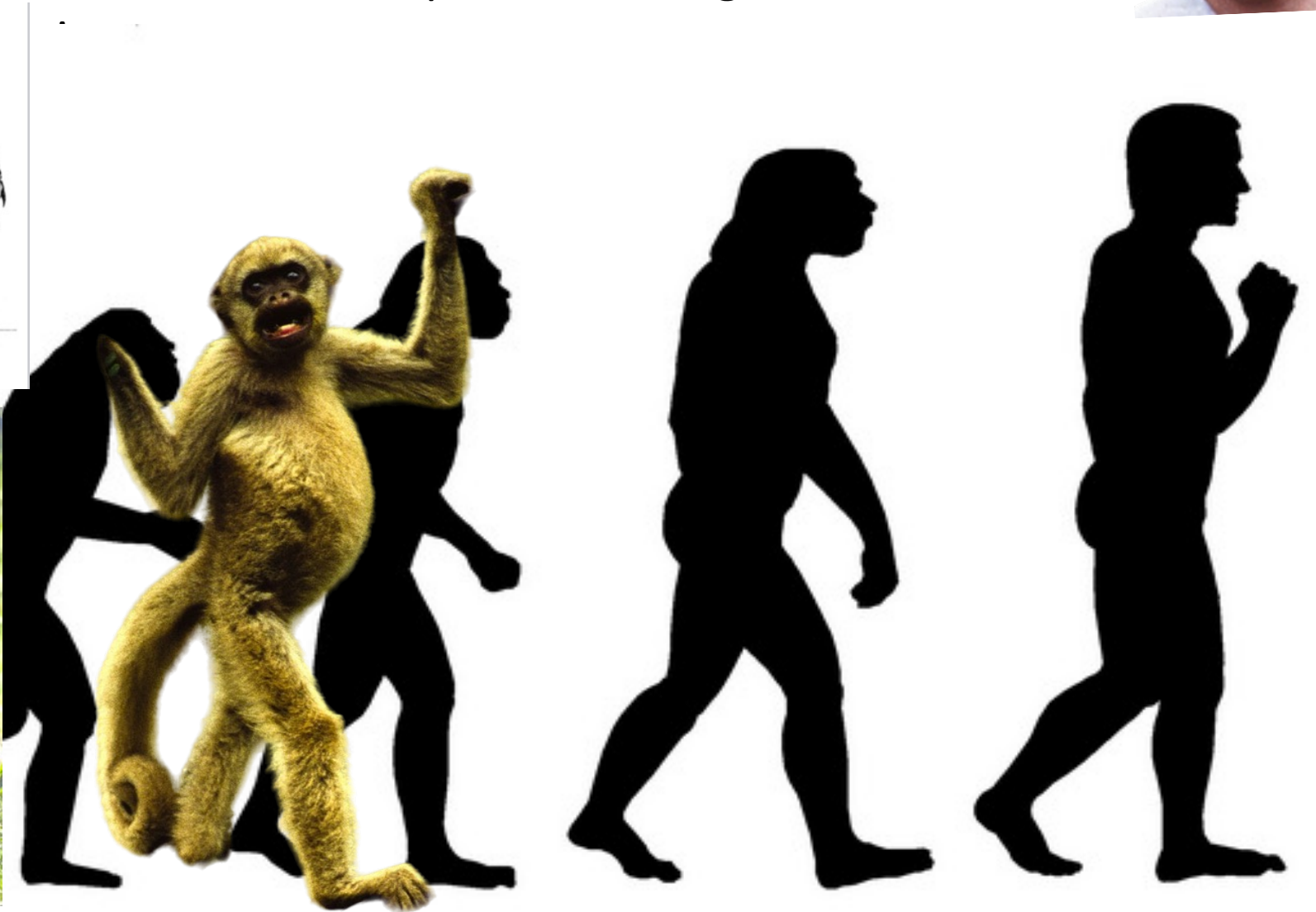
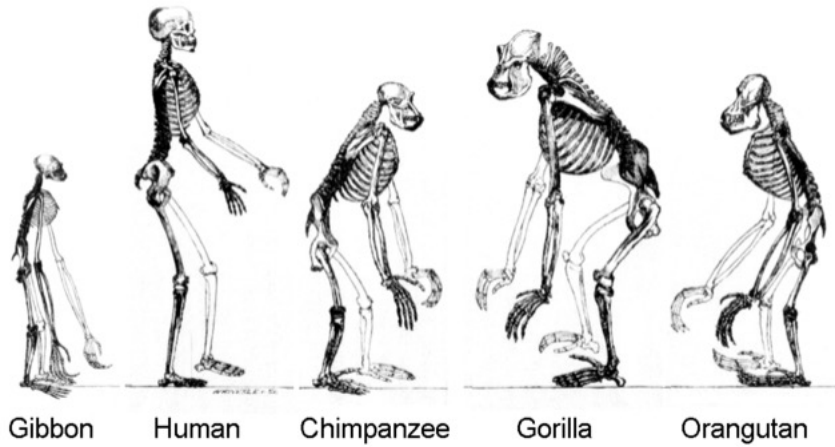




# DD studied several subject types!!!



Human Beatboxing is a great paradigm to explore the vocal tract capacities during



Special to  
Didier

6) Didier highly respected as a  
ILPGA's director 😊.





# DD's as highly respected director of the ILPGA





Special to  
Didier

7) Didier is known as an  
ethnomusicologist.





# Ethnomusicology



De haut en bas et de gauche à droite : Pygmées Efe © Didier Demolin - Elanga Nkake © Benoît Quentin - Xylophone Zande © Didier Demolin - Tambour à fente Mangbetu © Didier Demolin - Femmes Efe © Didier Demolin

De haut en bas et de gauche à droite : Baali Cithare Mafili - Mangbetu, cloche double - Ambala Mangbele - Musicien de cour Mangbetu - Lababo Kechabo - Crédits photos : Didier Demolin



# Ethnomusicology

JOURNAL ARTICLE

## Les rêveurs de la forêt: Polyphonies des pygmées Efe de l'Ituri



Central Africa (Zaire) and East Africa (Kenya).



1993 : « Rujindiri maître de l'inanga, musique de l'ancienne cour du Rwanda », Fonti Traditions du monde et Centre Ethnomusicologique Paul Collaer, paru dans Cahiers d'ethnomusicologie, 6.

Cahiers  
d'ethnomusicologie



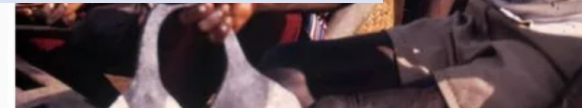
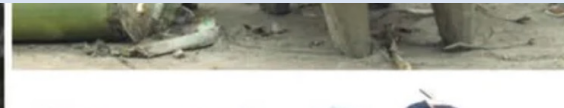
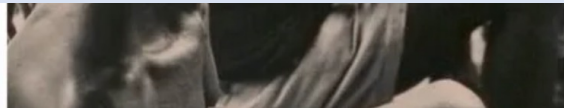
<https://www.radiofrance.fr/francemusique/podcasts/carnet-de-voyage/carnet-de-voyage-au-congo-dans-les-regions-de-uele-ituri-et-equateur-avec-didier-demolin-5789306>

<https://capture.dropbox.com/gji3oDdmBC3wtkCO>

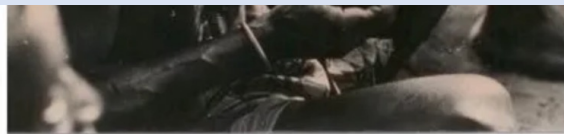


1995 : « Naissance de la voix d'un tambour à fente chez les Mangbetu. Du geste de l'artisan à celui du musicien et du danseur », paru dans Cahiers d'ethnomusicologie, 8.

principles involved in making musical instruments



languages and traditional music , speech tones and song









Special to  
Didier

8) Didier rebuildled with Teston (and  
later A. Ghio) a kymograph.



# DD rebuilt with Teston (and later A. Ghio) a kymograph

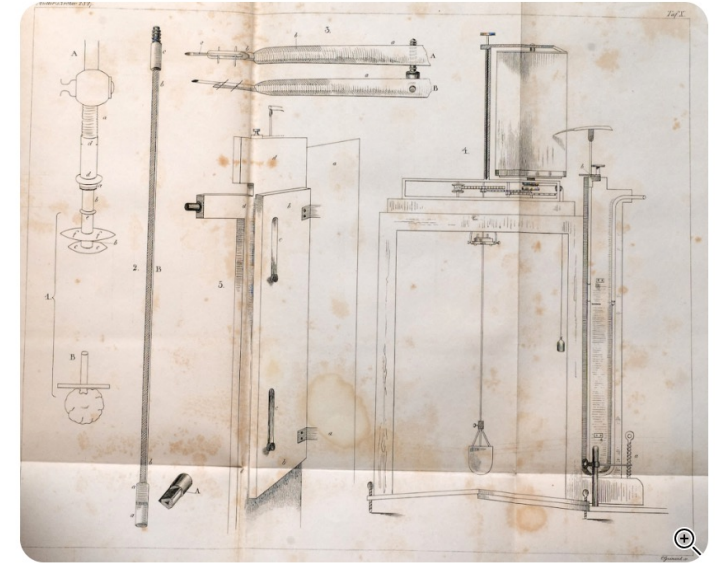


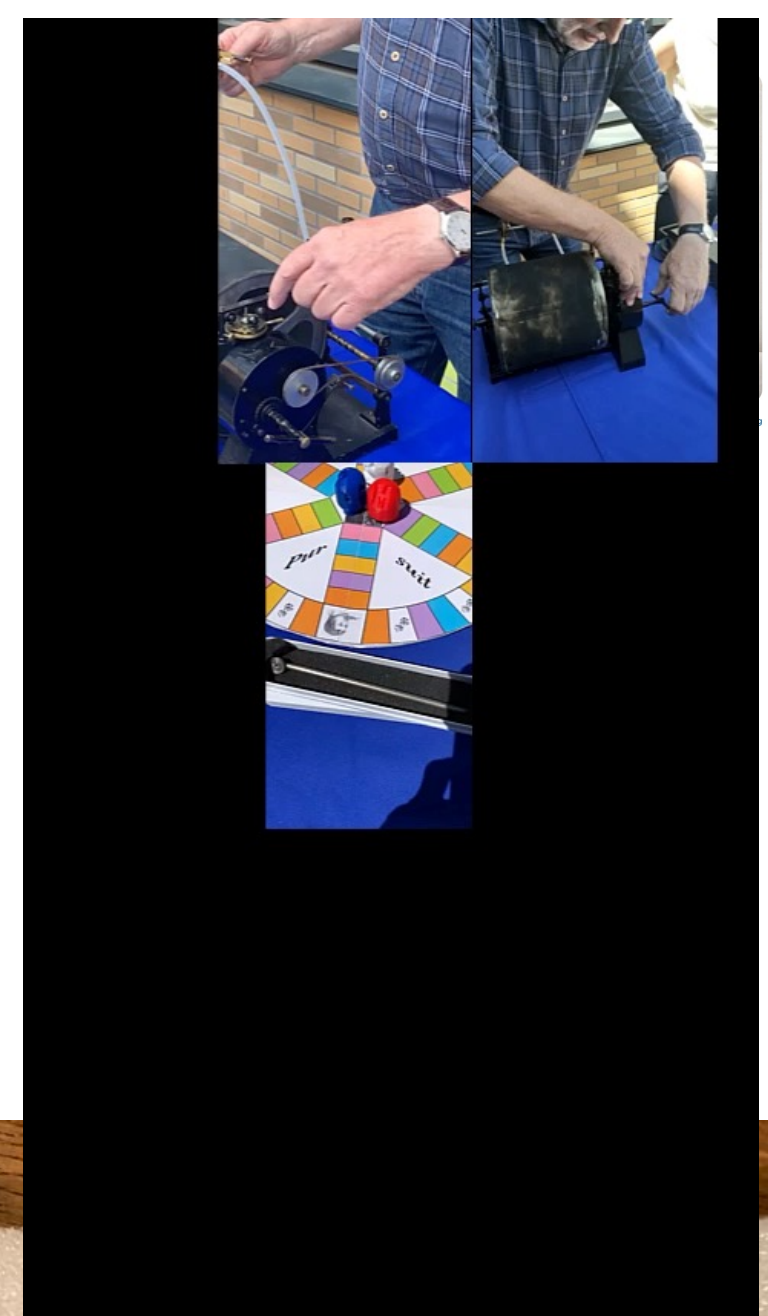
Image Source: [www.themitralvalve.org](http://www.themitralvalve.org)

Ludwig's original illustration of his kymograph





DD rebuilt with Teston (and later A. Ghio) a kymograph



Special to  
Didier

9) DD is very present on Youtube  
but did not know it 😊.

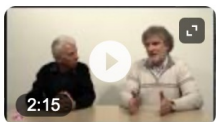




# DD is very present on Youtube, but did not know it 😊

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) › watch

## Didier Demolin 4 - YouTube



Entretien avec **Didier Demolin** (Gipsa-lab), par Gabriel Bergounioux - Partie 4. Réalisé à l'Université d'Orléans le 28 novembre 2013 après la ...

YouTube · LLLCanal · Apr 2, 2014

[twitter.com](https://twitter.com) › status · [Translate this page](#)

## TV5MONDE Info on Twitter: "Le langage est le propre de l'..."



**Didier Demolin**, professeur à l'université Paris-III Sorbonne nouvelle, spécialiste d'acoustique et de phonétique, nous explique l'inédite ...

Twitter · May 25, 2017

[aovivo.abralin.org](http://aovivo.abralin.org) › Lives · [Translate this page](#)

## Didier Demolin – Abralin ao Vivo: Linguists Online

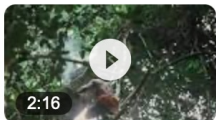


**Didier Demolin**. Os sons e sistemas de som da linguagem: diversidade, complexidade e dinâmica. 12.05.2020, 1:00 PM (UTC) 12.05.2020, 6:00 AM...

Abralin ao Vivo · Abralin · May 11, 2020

[twitter.com](https://twitter.com) › BLSoundHeritage › status

## BL Sound Heritage on Twitter: "Recorded by Didier Demolin in ..."

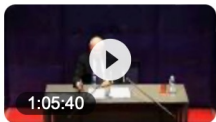


Recorded by **Didier Demolin** in 1987. Recently digitised by #UOSH This recording features in our latest radio programme for.

Twitter · Jun 7, 2021

[www.dailymotion.com](http://www.dailymotion.com) › xdchs6 · [Translate this page](#)

## IEA de Nantes - Conférence Didier SICARD - Vidéo Dailymotion



Regardez IEA de Nantes - Conférence Didier SICARD - IEANANTES sur Dailymotion. ... IEA de Nantes - Conférence de **Didier DEMOLIN**....

Dailymotion · IEANANTES · May 18, 2010

[amupod.univ-amu.fr](http://amupod.univ-amu.fr) › video › 2501-... · [Translate this page](#)

## Journée D'Etudes Sur La Parole 2018, Session... - AMUpod



Jacqueline Vaissière & **Didier Demolin**, Laboratoire de Phonétique, CNRS, Univ. Paris 3, "Du kymographe à EVA : petite histoire de ...

AMUpod · Mar 7, 2019

[www.radiofrance.fr](http://www.radiofrance.fr) › carnet-de-voyage · [Translate this page](#)

## Musique et culte des ancêtres chez les Maale d'Éthiopie

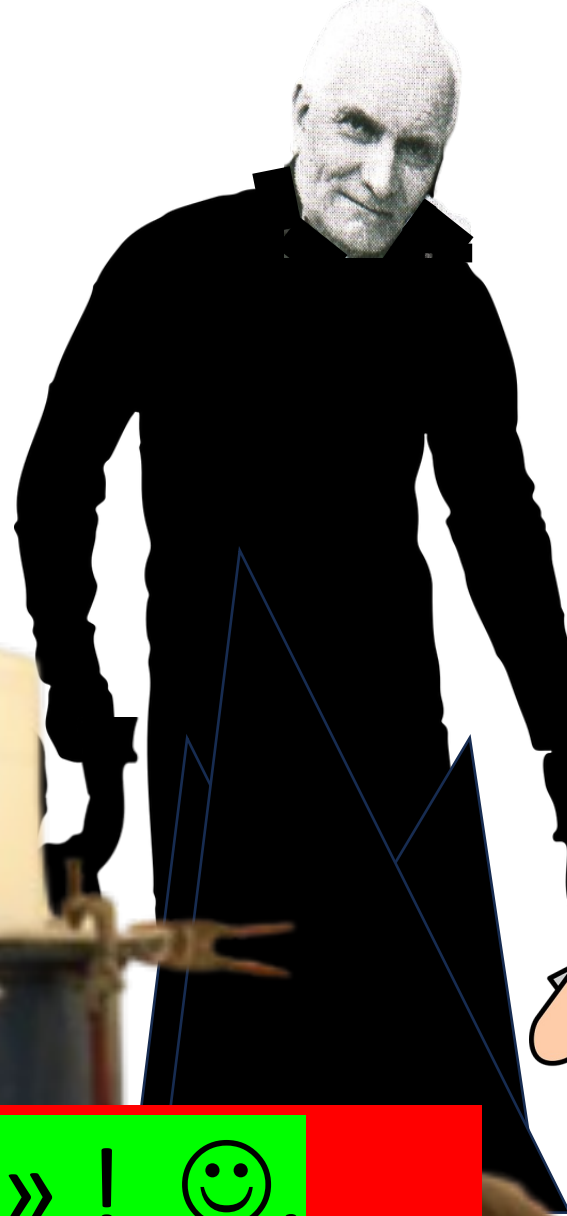


Carnet de voyage au Congo dans les régions de Uele, Ituri et Equateur avec **Didier Demolin**. 3 mai 2015 • 1h 19. Voyage musical au Viet-Nâm.

Radio France · May 17, 2015

Special to  
Didier

10) Four « nationales » ! 😊.

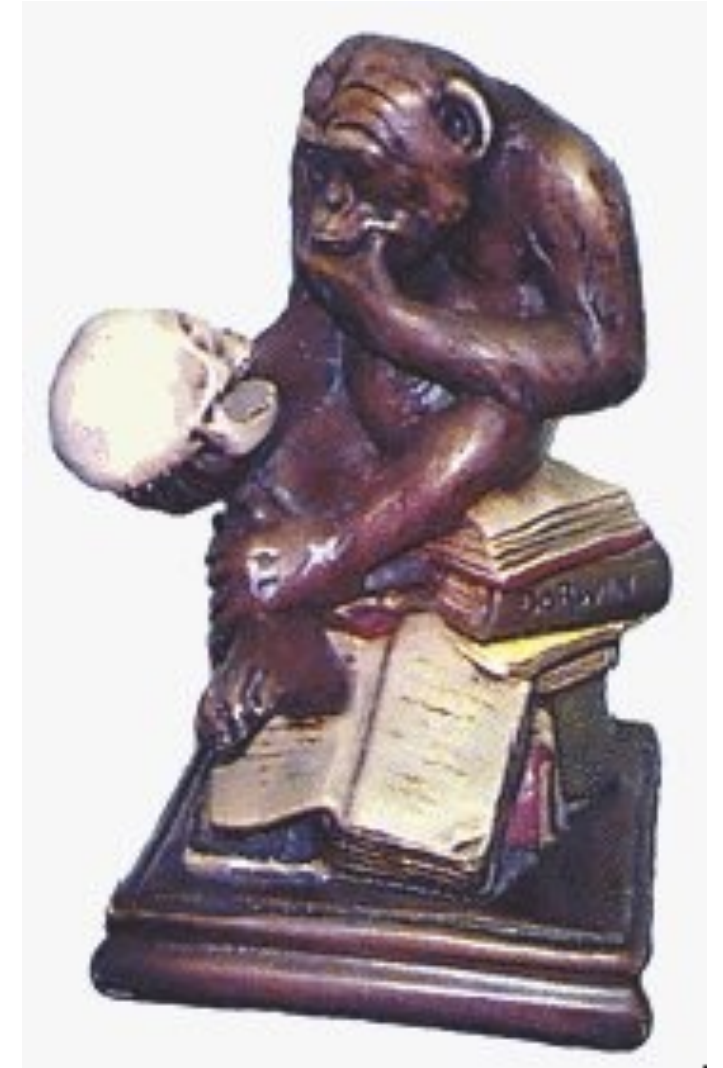
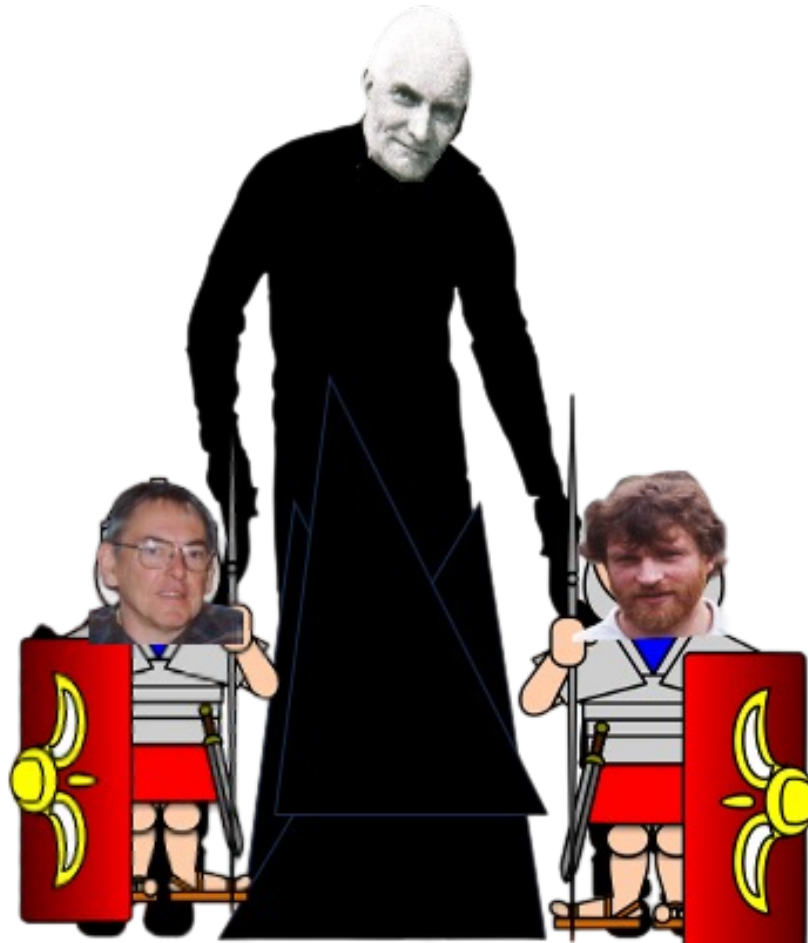


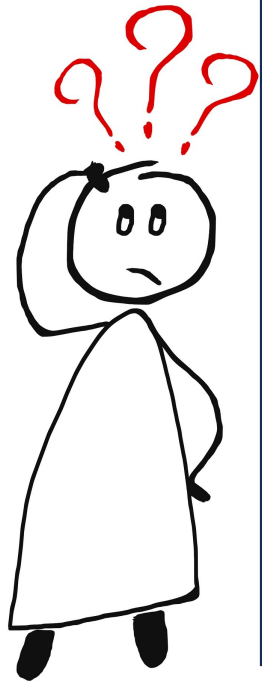


# Conclusion



What next ?





*Comment ça marche?*

Still the same question !



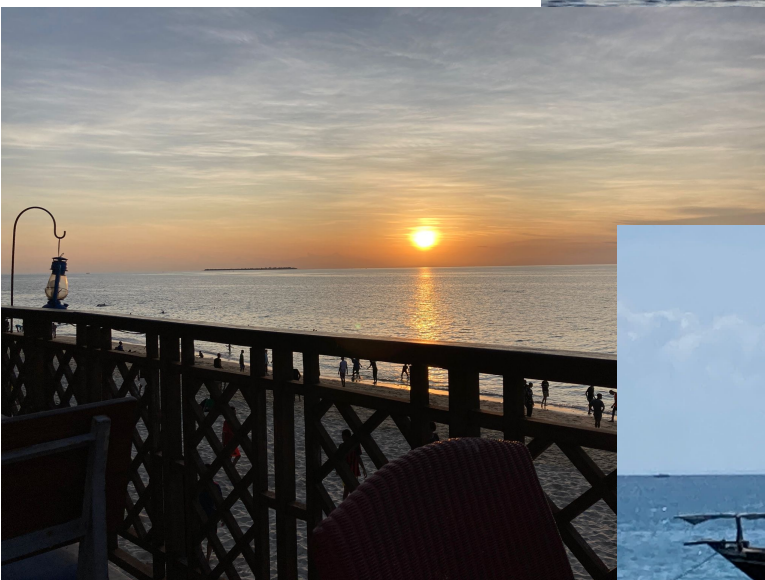
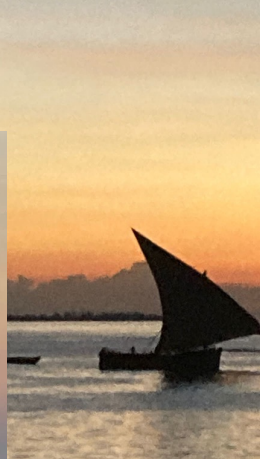
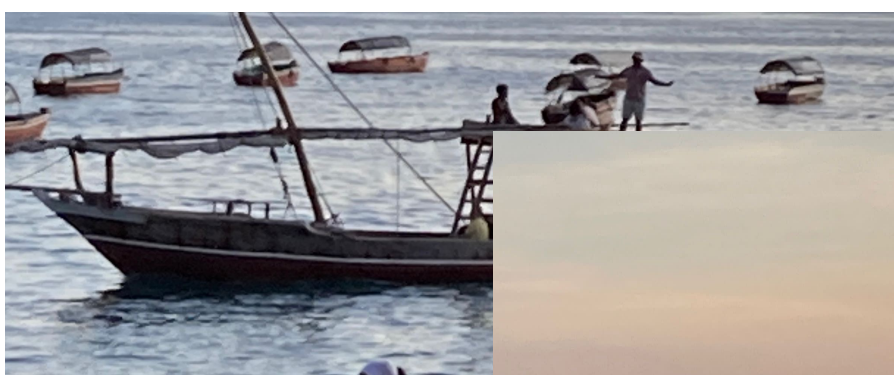


## No time to dream for the moment

- 5 papers for ICPHS 2023!
- A 65-page long paper on the evolution and initiation of non-pulmonic consonants (with John Kingston)
- Recent stay at Zanzibar, plans to go back to Tanzania at the end of the year  
Accepted a professorship in Africa
- He has a lot of work to do, articles, theses, projects to finish.

### Two books to write

accepted by Wiley: *Origine et évolution de la parole*  
*Sounds of languages: foundations of phonetics*



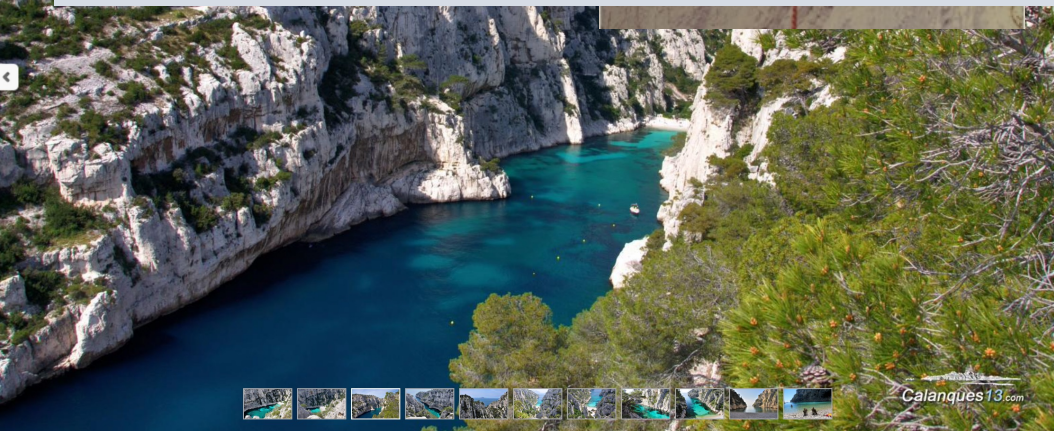
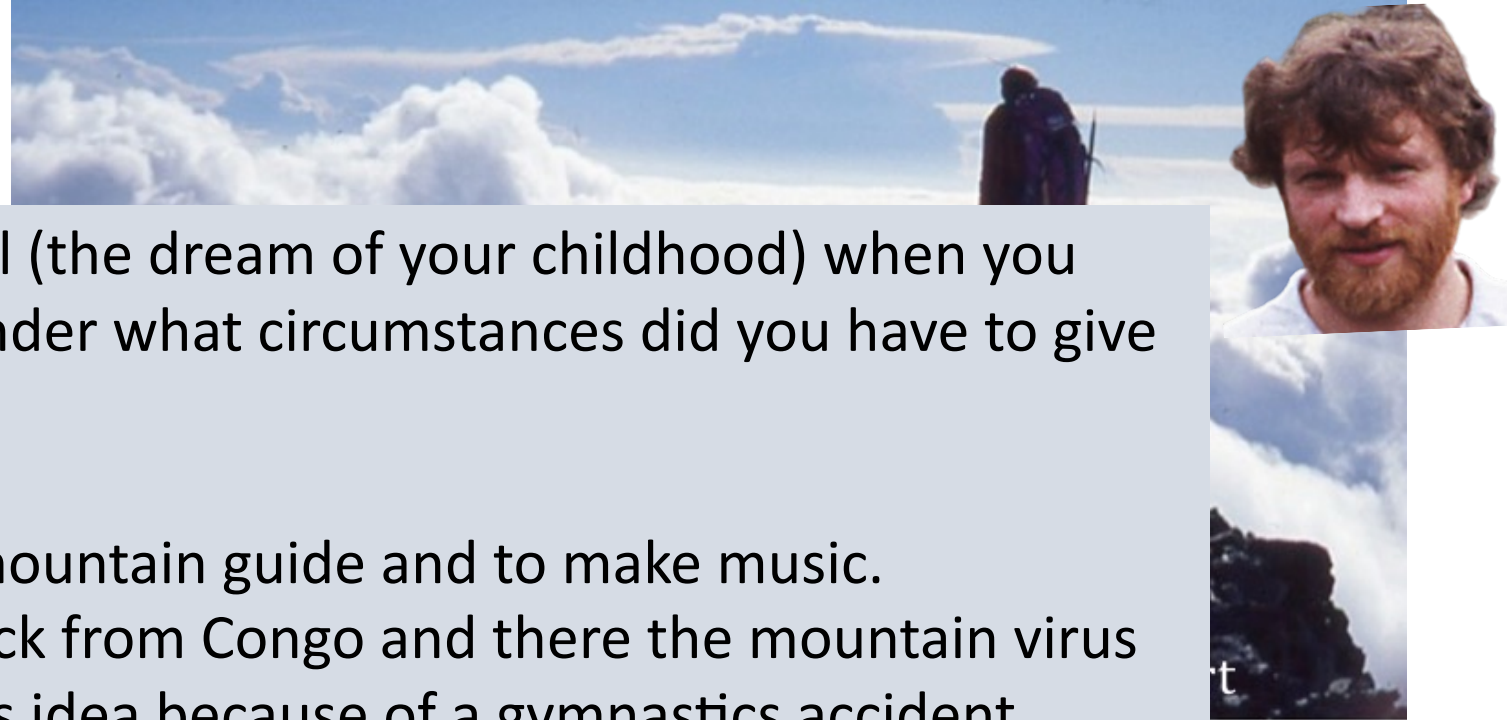
Last week-end in Zanzibar



# DD'S first dream

**My question:** What was your first goal (the dream of your childhood) when you were a child), your first project and under what circumstances did you have to give up and when?

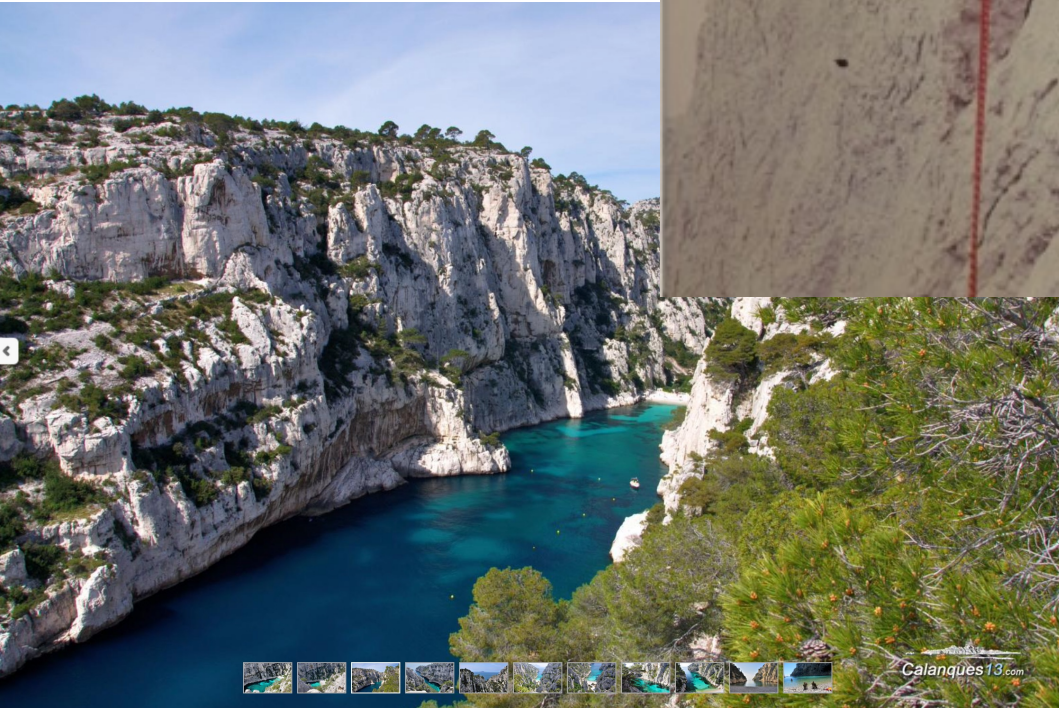
**DD's answer:** I wanted to become a mountain guide and to make music. I went to Switzerland when I came back from Congo and there the mountain virus contaminated me. I had to give up this idea because of a gymnastics accident (never had anything in the mountains). For the music, the practice of an instrument quickly became incompatible with the mountain and then the numerous stays in Africa. I continued to study musicology.





# DD'S first dream

Calanque d'En Vau 1978



Ruwenzori pic Albert

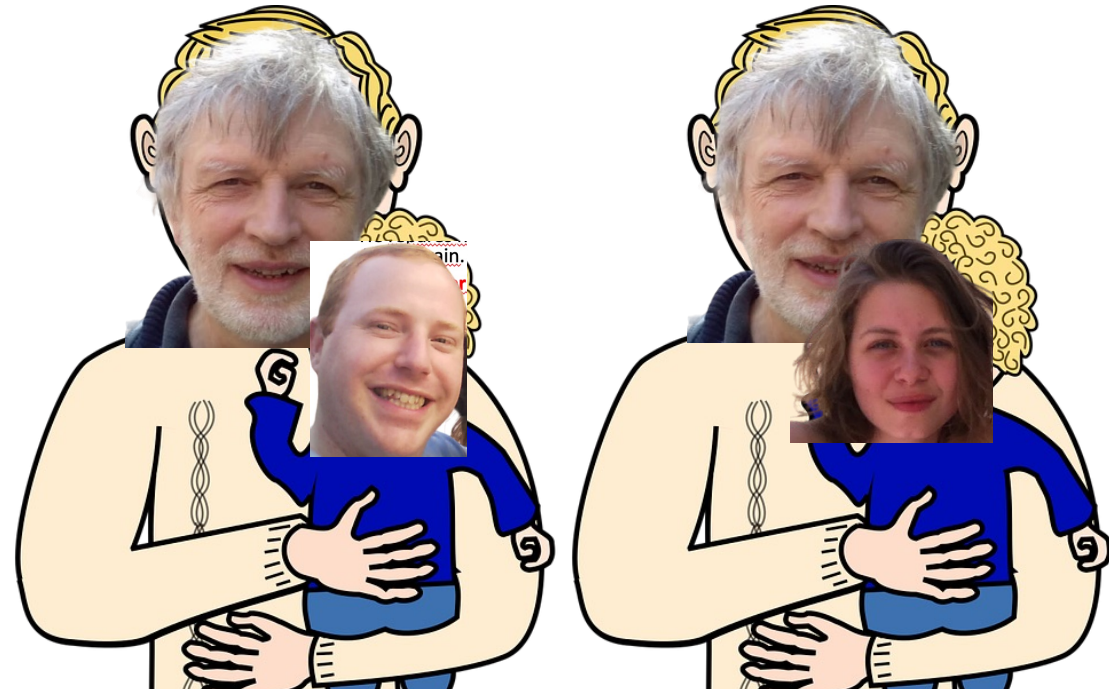




# Next dream?: of becoming a lazy old grandfather



- To become a grand-father , you need to have children 😊
- He got a son, Louis, in Belgium and a daughter, Sarah, in Brazil.



# Next dream?: of becoming a lazy old grandfather

- **Old?** He has his heart broken once, but his heart was surgically repaired and he got a brand new one 😊



- **Lazy?**

Never !

- **Grandfather?** he seems to be a very devoted grandfather and a very proud patriarch of his family.





# Next dream?: of becoming a lazy old grandfather

- **Old?** He has his heart broken once, but his heart was surgically repaired and he got a brand new one.
- **Lazy?**  
Never.
- **Grandfather?** he seems already to be a very devoted grandfather and a very proud patriarch of his family.



Corpus phonetics  
Field phonetics  
Laboratory phonetics  
Clinical phonetics  
Historical phonetics  
Instrumental phonetics  
Laboratory phonology  
Laboratory  
sociolinguistics

Acoustic  
Perceptual  
Anatomical  
Physiological  
Articulatory

Linguists  
Doctors  
Physicists  
Sp. Therapists  
Statisticians  
Mathematicians  
Ethnologists  
Antropologists  
Speech technology  
Modelization  
Constructors

data

domain

collaborations

The future of phonetics; Search of plausible  
hypotheses about the speech code





Merci !



# References ?

Sorry, too many articles written by John and Didier,  
ask Google Scholar !

Rousselot's book can be found on the Web

