Tecumseh Fitch is an evolutionary biologist and cognitive scientist. He is Professor of Cognitive Biology at the University of Vienna. Fitch’s interests include bioacoustics and biolinguistics, specifically the evolution of speech, language and music.

The Biological Evolution of the Human Capacity for Language

The evolution of language is one of the most recent of the “major transitions” in evolution, and crucially underlies the success of the human species today. Through the ability to flexibly and precisely share our thoughts with one another, humans gain a capacity for information sharing and cultural evolution that is unparalleled in the rest of the animal kingdom. I will explore the biological basis of human language and review recent progress in understanding its evolution based on comparative data and paleo-DNA.

Website:
https://cogbio.univie.ac.at/, http://homepage.univie.ac.at/tecumseh.fitch/