

Phonology @ UC San Diego

Who we are and what we're up to, as of March 2010

Sharon Rose, Associate Professor

(BA, Toronto; MA, Université du Québec à Montréal; PhD, McGill)

My research is in phonology based on fieldwork with native speakers of African languages (primarily Ethio-Semitic and Kordofanian). My recent work has also incorporated research in phonetics, psycholinguistics and morpho-syntax. Interests are varied and include tone and metrical structure, long distance harmony and phonotactics, duration, affix order, and the phonetics of ejectives.

I currently have two main projects: 1) description and analysis of the Kordofanian language Moro (with Farrell Ackerman), funded by an NSF grant, and 2) the phonetics of ejective fricatives in Tigrinya (with Ryan Shosted at UIUC), funded by a UCSD Academic Senate grant. I am also returning to working on psycholinguistic experiments on Amharic phonotactics with Rebecca Colavin as part of her dissertation research. Forthcoming papers include two on Moro tone in publication, a paper in submission on Tigrinya ejectives, and two papers on harmony (harmony systems and consonant harmony).

I have supervised students (my own advisees as well as others) on a variety of topics. I think UCSD is a great place to do phonology because of the different interests of all involved, ranging from theory to fieldwork to experiments, and for the encouragement and support in arenas like the phonology reading group (San Diego Phonology Interest Group, or SaD-PhIG).

Eric Baković, Associate Professor

(BA, UC Santa Cruz; PhD, Rutgers)

My interests are in phonological theory, and my research is generally about the complex interaction of phonological processes. My most recent work has been on blocking and opaque interactions in particular. I'm currently finishing a long-overdue monograph on disjunctive blocking interactions, and recently completed a chapter on opacity in phonological theory. I also recently completed a co-authored paper with Bożena Pająk based on her work on the interaction of assimilation and epenthesis in Polish, to appear in *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*. I think UCSD is a great place to do phonology because I have great colleagues and students to interact with, whether it be in class, during our phonology reading group (SaD-PhIG) meetings, or otherwise. I derive particular pleasure from working with students whose research foci are a bit removed from mine; none of the students whose work I've supervised has a research focus in phonological theory. This is a reflection of the diverse-yet-interactive (and collaborative) orientation of our program and of the campus.

Gabriela Caballero, Assistant Professor

(BA, Universidad de Sonora, Mexico; PhD, Berkeley)

My research is primarily in phonology and morphology (both synchronic and diachronic) and their interface, based on work with lesser-studied languages of the Americas. I specialize in Uto-Aztecan languages and conduct fieldwork and documentation of Rarámuri in northern Mexico. My interests are varied, and recently include the role of stress and tone in Rarámuri word prosody and their interaction with intonation. I'm currently working on a paper about the morphological conditions on stress assignment in Rarámuri. I'm also starting a collaboration with Vsevolod Kapatsinski (U Oregon) to investigate the ways in which morphological structure conditions phonological phenomena and the role that speech perception and processing might play in shaping morphological complexity in morphologically complex languages. I think UCSD is a great place to do phonology because of the range of interests of both faculty and students with theory, experimentation and field research, and the ample opportunities for interaction, including the phonology reading group (SaD-PhIG).

Rebecca Sinclair Colavin, ABD

(BA, San Diego State University; MA, UC San Diego)

My research interests are primarily in the area of computational linguistics. Over the last three years, my interests have gravitated towards computational phonology. In general terms, I use evidence from speaker judgment tasks to test and improve a theoretically motivated statistical model (Hayes and Wilson, 2008) that informs us about the role of frequency in the acquisition and processing of phonotactics. Sharon Rose and Roger Levy are currently my co-advisors on this project, with support from Eric Baković. Currently, I am planning a trip to Ethiopia with Sharon to collect more experimental data. Overall, The atmosphere of the program, and the phonology research group in particular, is both challenging and supportive. I believe that the willingness of our faculty to step outside of their main areas of interest to collaborate on student research is one of the great strengths of our department.

Alex del Giudice, ABD

(BA, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

My background in Sign Language Phonology, among many other interests, have led to my dissertation research on the evolutionary origins of phonology. Part of this research focuses on how words, which may have begun as holistic form-meaning pairs, could gain sub-lexical structure overtime as recurring sublexical pieces (phonemes, syllables, etc.) quickly pervade the lexicon. Furthermore, I'm exploring evidence from young sign languages which suggests that the adoption of phonological innovations across an entire language community can be dependent on the structure of the population (i.e., how large the language community is, how many social-communicative links each speaker has to other speakers, etc.).

Bożena Pająk, 4th-year student

(MA, Jagiellonian University, Poland; MA, UC San Diego)

My current research involves speech perception and language learning. I am interested in how knowledge from previously learned languages helps when learning new languages. My main hypothesis is that learning each additional language allows one to build abstract knowledge regarding ways in which languages differ, and that this abstract knowledge facilitates learning when languages differ in expected ways. Doing sound-related research at UC San Diego is a great experience: you study the theory and then learn how to test your ideas doing experimental work. Also, there are plenty of opportunities for collaboration, both inside and outside of the Department. For example, I am currently working on a project with Roger Levy, Klinton Bicknell (from the Linguistics Department) and Vic Ferreira (from the Psychology Department).

Lucien Carroll, 3rd-year student

(BA, BS, UC Santa Barbara; MA ABT, San Diego State University)

My general interests are in computational and quantitative modeling, and I think variation and change in phonology provide crucial evidence in developing our understanding of grammar in general. My most recent project documented inter-generational differences in the sandhi tones of Jinhua Wu Chinese, and my next project will look at computational modeling of language change. I think UCSD is a great place to do phonology because we have a bunch of people who are doing interesting things and keeping linguistic theory and experiment interacting together.

Noah Girgis, 2nd-year student

(BA, MA, University of Washington)

I am primarily interested in phonology and phonetics and have recently been looking into pharyngealization spread in Arabic from several angles. The asymmetric spread pattern causes some phonology-theoretic issues and makes predictions about the acoustic phonetic characteristics in production. I am currently testing these predictions. One of the many positives about UCSD is the pro-experimental attitude, which means you can put your phonological theorizing into practice.

Bethany Keffala, 2nd-year student

(BA, Bryn Mawr College)

My primary interests within phonology are tone, prosody, and metrical structure. Through the department's Field Methods course, I am currently investigating phonological properties of GiTonga, a Bantu language spoken in Mozambique and about which very little has been written. For this project, I have been able to work on UCSD's campus with a native speaker of GiTonga. Since arriving, I have not ceased to be impressed by the faculty's accessibility, and their generosity with their time despite having vast amounts of their own very interesting work to do. The community in UCSD's Linguistics Department is very collaborative, which is vital for the emergence and evolution of new and interesting ideas.

Hope Morgan, 2nd-year student

(BA, Sonoma State University)

Currently, I am studying phonological constraints on two-handed signs in Kenyan Sign Language. More broadly, I am interested in the phonological possibilities and constraints across sign languages and how these result in word-formation and interact with morphological features. Even more broadly, I am curious about the underlying universals of language, seen through the prism of the two different modalities.

Selected recent and upcoming activities by UCSD phonologists

Publications

Gabriela Caballero (submitted). Morphologically conditioned stress assignment in Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara).

Gabriela Caballero (submitted). The development of Tepiman Truncation.

Ryan Shosted and **Sharon Rose** (submitted). Affricating ejective fricatives: The case of Tigrinya.

Eric Baković (to appear). Opacity deconstructed. In *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*, Wiley-Blackwell.

Eric Baković (to appear). Local blocking and minimal violation. *Papers from CLS 45*.

Gabriela Caballero. (to appear). Multiple Exponence and the phonology-morphology interface. *Proceedings of NELS 39*.

Gabriela Caballero (to appear). Scope, phonology and morphology in an agglutinating language: Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara) variable suffix ordering. *Morphology 20*.

Bożena Pająk (to appear). Contextual constraints on geminates: the case of Polish. *Proceedings of BLS 35*.

Bożena Pająk and **Eric Baković** (to appear). Assimilation, antigemination, and contingent optionality: the phonology of monoconsonantal proclitics in Polish. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*.

Sharon Rose (to appear). Long distance assimilation of consonants. In *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*, Wiley-Blackwell.

Sharon Rose and Rachel Walker (to appear). Harmony Systems. In *Handbook of Phonological Theory* (2nd ed.), Wiley-Blackwell.

Peter Jenks and **Sharon Rose** (to appear). High tone in Moro: effects of prosodic categories and morphological domains. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*.

Peter Jenks and **Sharon Rose** (to appear). Syllable weight and high tone in Moro. *Papers from CLS 45*.

Eric Baković. 2009. Abstractness and motivation in phonological theory. *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics* 2.1.

Presentations

Gabriela Caballero and Alice C. Harris. May 2010. A Working Typology of Multiple Exponence: Cross-linguistics Variation and Theoretical Implications. *14th International Morphology Meeting*, Budapest.

Sharon Rose. May 2010. Insights from Kordofanian on African language structures. Invited keynote speaker, *ACAL 41*, Toronto.

Andrew Strabone and **Sharon Rose**. May 2010. Morpho-phonological properties of causatives in Moro. *ACAL 41*, Toronto.

Rebecca Colavin, Roger Levy, and **Sharon Rose**. Apr. 2010. Modeling OCP-Place with the Maximum Entropy Phonotactic Learner. *CLS 46*, Chicago.

Alex del Giudice. Apr. 2010. Recreating duality of patterning in the laboratory. *Evolang 8*, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Lucien Carroll. Feb 2010. A contour tone chain shift in Jinhua Wu sandhi tones. Workshop on East Asian Linguistics, Santa Barbara.

Rebecca Colavin, Roger Levy, and **Sharon Rose**. Feb. 2010. Modeling OCP-Place with the Maximum Entropy Phonotactic Learner. *Workshop on Computational Modeling of Sound Pattern Acquisition*, Edmonton, AB.

Gabriela Caballero. Jan. 2010. Non-optimizing outward conditioning in Tarahumara allomorph selection. *84th Annual Meeting of the LSA*, Baltimore.

Gabriela Caballero. Jan. 2010. Tone in Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara) word prosody. *SSILA Annual Meeting*, Baltimore.

Sharon Rose. Jan. 2010. Moro Object Marking and Affix Order. Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz.

Bożena Pająk. Jan. 2010. L2 knowledge facilitates perception of L3. *84th Annual Meeting of the LSA*, Baltimore.

Eric Baković and **Bożena Pająk**. Oct. 2009. On becoming similar but avoiding identity. Colloquia, UC Santa Cruz and University of British Columbia.

Hope Morgan. Aug. 2009. The Role of the Non-dominant Hand in Kenyan Sign Language. *World Congress on African Linguistics 6*, Cologne, Germany.

Bożena Pająk. May 2009. Perception of Moroccan Arabic geminates by native English speakers. *2nd ASA Special Workshop on Speech*, Portland, OR.

Farrell Ackerman, George Gibbard, Peter Jenks, Laura Kertz, and **Sharon Rose**. Apr. 2009. Balancing Description, Typology, and Theory in Thetogovela Moro. *ACAL 40*, Urbana-Champaign.

Peter Jenks and **Sharon Rose**. Apr. 2009. Syllable Weight and High Tone in Moro: Evidence for Attraction. *CLS 45*, Chicago.

Eric Baković. Apr. 2009. Local blocking and minimal violation. *CLS 45*, Chicago.

Noah Girgis. Mar. 2009. Pharyngealized fricatives in Egyptian Arabic: heritage vs. non-heritage speakers. *International Workshop on Pharyngeals and Pharyngealisation*, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

Bożena Pająk. Feb. 2009. Contextual constraints on geminates: the case of Polish. *BLS 35*, Berkeley.

Gabriela Caballero. Feb. 2009. Scope, phonology and templates in an agglutinating language: Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara) variable suffix order. Colloquium, Rice University.

Bożena Pająk. Jan. 2009. Context-dependent perception of geminates. *83rd Annual Meeting of the LSA*, San Francisco.

Alex del Giudice, Amy Lieberman, and Rachel Mayberry. Nov. 2009. Do phonological coding and awareness predict reading skill in deaf readers? *Boston University Conference on Language Development 33*, Boston.

Funding

Farrell Ackerman and **Sharon Rose**. 2008-2010. *Moro Language Project*. NSF grant BCS-0745973 (\$199,917).

Gabriela Caballero. 2008-2010. *A reference grammar of Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara)*. Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Documentation Project grant (£43,739).

Rebecca Colavin and **Alex del Giudice**. 2009-2010. Center for Research on Language NIH Predoctoral Training Fellowships.

Sharon Rose. 2009. *Ejective fricatives in Tigrinya*. UCSD Academic Senate Grant (\$8647).

Hope Morgan. 2008-2010. UCSD Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship.

Bożena Pająk. 2010. Dean of Social Sciences Travel Fund Award (\$250).

Alex del Giudice. 2009. UCSD Linguistics research and travel grant (\$400).

Bożena Pająk. 2008, 2009. UCSD Linguistics research and travel grants (various amounts).

Alumni

Cynthia Kilpatrick, PhD 2009
Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics and TESOL, UT Arlington
Dissertation: *The Acquisition of Ungrammaticality: Learning a Subset in L2 Phonotactics*

Nicoleta Bateman, PhD 2007
Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies, California State University, San Marcos
Dissertation: *A Crosslinguistic Investigation of Palatalization*

Alicia Muñoz Sánchez, PhD 2003
Spanish Language Academic Coordinator, Linguistics Department, UC San Diego
Dissertation: *The Effect of Phonological Status on the Acquisition of New Contrasts: Evidence from Spanish and Japanese L2 Learners of English*

Linda Godson, PhD 2003
Director, Heritage Language Initiative, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Portland State University
Dissertation: *Phonetics of Language Attrition: vowel production and articulatory setting in the speech of Western Armenian heritage speakers*

Last updated: March 2010