

**Workshop ID :** 33

**Workshop Duration :** Workshop - 1 Day

**Workshop Title :** **Bantu and Khoisan Lab Phonology**

**Workshop Leader :** **Aaron Braver**, Texas Tech University

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The aim of this workshop is to showcase cutting edge "laboratory phonology" approaches to Bantu and Khoisan languages - the two indigenous African language groupings endemic to South Africa, the host country of ICL 20.

Phonetic and phonological studies of Southern African languages have a long and illustrious history. Since Doke's (1923) pioneering X-ray study of posterior constrictions in Zulu clicks, linguists studying the phonetics and phonology of Bantu and Khoisan languages have employed and innovated instrumental and "laboratory" approaches to get at phonetic and phonological questions. We propose a workshop to celebrate this history, highlighting the recent resurgence in quantitative, instrumental, and experimental studies in phonetics and phonology more generally.

Recent work in this area has taken many forms. For example, Jessen & Roux (2002) provide a detailed acoustic analysis of voicing quality in Xhosa stops and clicks; and Myers (2003) uses a similar method to probe questions of tone realization in Kinyarwanda. Amanda Miller and colleagues (2009) use ultrasound to investigate the articulatory characteristics of clicks in N|uu, while Lee-Kim, Kawahara & Lee (2014) use a similar method to study whistled fricatives in Xitsonga. Proctor et al. (2016) use MRI to study click production in Khoekhoe in real-time. Other work takes an experimental approach to quantify reported generalizations. For example, Bennett & Braver (2015) use a wug-test paradigm to test the productivity of labial palatalization in Xhosa, and Zeller, Zerbian & Cook (2016) use a production experiment to bring prosodic evidence to bear on syntactic structure. Experimental studies of both sorts are increasingly common in research done and published in Africa: a recent special volume of *South African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies* contains several laboratory phonology papers, including an experimental assessment of siSwati mid-vowel assimilation (Malambe 2015) and production and perception experiments on tone spread in Bemba (Kula and Braun 2015).

We seek papers that bring instrumental, quantitative, or experimental methods to bear on data from Bantu and/or Khoisan languages. The workshop welcomes papers that feature novel data collected in the lab or in the field, as well as fresh analytical approaches to existing data or corpora. Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Perception and production experiments
- Acoustic or articulatory studies of phonetic or phonological patterns
- Studies of prosody and the syntax-phonology-phonetics relationship
- Quantitative analysis of corpus data
- Effects of frequency on phonetic and phonological measures
- Wug tests or other experimental approaches to morphology

The workshop will emphasize discourse between linguists based in Africa and those based elsewhere-two groups which, in spite of their common interest, need more fora in which to exchange their work.

### **Selected References:**

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- Kula, N.C. and Braun, B. (2015). Mental representation of tonal spreading in Bemba: Evidence from elicited production and perception. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies* 33.3:307-323.
- Lee-Kim, S., Kawahara, S., and Lee, S.J. (2014). The 'Whistled' Fricative in Xitsonga: Its Articulation and Acoustics. *Phonetica* 71:50-81.
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- Miller, A., Brugman, J., Sands, B., Namaseb, L., Exter, M., and Collins, C. (2009). Differences in airstream and posterior place of articulation among N|juu clicks. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, 39.2:129-161.
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- Zeller, J., Zerbian, Z., and Cook, T. (2016). Prosodic evidence for syntactic phrasing in Zulu. In *The Conjoint/Disjoint Alternation in Bantu*, ed. By van der Wal, J. and Hyman, L.M. Berlin: De Gruyter. 295-328.