

<u>Workshop ID :</u>	54
<u>Workshop Duration :</u>	Workshop - 1 Day
<u>Workshop Title :</u>	Ideophones in the Language Sciences
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Ideophones are highly salient words which depict sensory experiences in a vivid and expressive manner. Like onomatopoeia, ideophones use iconicity to evoke aspects of non-linguistic phenomena. Yet their semantic territory ranges far beyond sound mimicry; ideophones can depict such varied eventualities as the fall of silence (Wolof: *miig*), intense dryness (Kisi: *k'adi*), and bright sparkling (Japanese: *kirakira*). Besides iconic flavor and sensory semantics, ideophones are grammatically marked, featuring aberrant phonotactics, phonology, prosody, or morphosyntax which set them apart from other parts of speech. Although documented in all major language families, ideophones have a fraught history in the language sciences because they tend to confound theoretical rigidity and challenge widely-held beliefs about the nature of human language, such as the Saussurian principle of the arbitrariness of the sign.

Recent years have brought unprecedented (and long overdue) attention to ideophones, due in part to increased interest in the interface of language and cognition and to the emergence of cross-linguistic comparison as a method in formal semantics and pragmatics. In addition to more traditional descriptive and typological approaches, much recent research has investigated how ideophones' phonotactics, phonology, morphosyntax, prosody, and semantics are integrated with linguistic subsystems. Some researchers are bringing new techniques and tools to the study of ideophones; for example, by designing experimental studies which probe the interplay of arbitrariness and iconicity in this unique word class, and which considers the implications for word learning.

At this exciting juncture in ideophone studies, we propose to host a oneday workshop to bring together experts and exchange new research findings from typological, experimental, and theoretical perspectives. ICL represents an unparalleled forum for this workshop because of its international status and broad reach across sub-disciplines. The setting of Cape Town is particularly fitting for this workshop, given the prominence of ideophones in many African languages, including languages of South Africa. We are also hopeful that the setting will attract significant participation from African researchers and foster scholarly exchange across continents.

