

# Phonology @ UC San Diego

*Linguistics Prospective Student Open House, 2009*

## **Sharon Rose**, Associate Professor

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

My research is in phonology and its intersection with morphology, based primarily on fieldwork with native speakers of African languages. Recent work has also incorporated research in phonetics and psycholinguistics. Interests are varied and include tone and metrical structure, long distance harmony and phonotactics, duration and unusual sounds. I am currently spending most of my time working on the Kordofanian language Moro, but I squeeze in other research and papers when I find the time. I have just submitted a paper on ejective fricatives in Tigrinya (with Ryan Shosted, UIUC) and am working on a chapter on consonant harmony to appear in the *Blackwell Companion to Phonology* (Wiley-Blackwell). I think UCSD is a great place to do phonology because of the varied interests of all involved, ranging from theory to fieldwork to experiments, and for the encouragement and support in arenas like the phonology reading group (SaD-PhIG).

## **Eric Baković**, Associate Professor

(BA, UC Santa Cruz; PhD, Rutgers University)

My research is generally about the complex interaction of phonological processes, blocking and opaque interactions in particular. I'm currently finishing a long-overdue monograph on disjunctive blocking interactions, and writing a chapter on opacity in phonological theory for the forthcoming *Blackwell Companion to Phonology* (Wiley-Blackwell). I'm also co-authoring a paper with Bożena Pająk based on her work on the interaction of assimilation and epenthesis in Polish. 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.

## **Cynthia Kilpatrick**, ABD

(BA, Lee University; MA, University of Texas at El Paso)

My general research interests center around the acquisition of second language phonology. In particular, I'm interested in what language learners view as *ungrammatical* or unacceptable in the phonology of their L2, and in the long term, what they do about it. My dissertation, entitled *The Acquisition of Ungrammaticality: Learning a Subset in L2 Phonotactics*, is an experimental investigation into the extent to which second language learners recognize that sound sequences that are acceptable and attested in their L1 are unacceptable (ungrammatical) in their L2. Currently, I'm finishing up my dissertation, which means writing, and re-writing, and revising, and then some revision. I'm also in the planning stages of putting together an artificial learning experiment to see (1) how long it takes to learn a simple subset and (2) if it's more difficult if the subset/complement is reversed. UCSD has been a great place for me to do phonology, mostly because of Eric and Sharon, and their encouragement for me to pursue my own interests and branch out on my own even when that meant that my focus did not mesh exactly with what they do. Increasingly, the interactions with a growing number of students who are interested in the sound side of things, especially as evidenced at SaD-PhIG, has made UCSD an even better place for phonologically-minded students.

## **Rebecca Sinclair Colavin**, 4th-year student

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

My research interests are primarily in the area of computational linguistics. Over the last two years I have become particularly interested in 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. Eric Baković is currently my main adviser, but we work closely with both Sharon Rose and Roger Levy. I think that this willingness of the faculty to step outside of their main areas of interest to collaborate in new areas of research is one of the great strengths of our department.

## **Bożena Pająk**, 3rd-year student

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

My current research involves phonological variation and speech perception. Specifically, I am interested in investigating phonological factors that condition variation patterns, and how listeners use their probabilistic knowledge about these patterns when they process spoken language. Doing phonology at UCSD is a lot of fun: 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. Example: I am currently co-authoring a paper with Eric Baković on a variation pattern in Polish clitics.

## **Lucien Carroll**, 2nd-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 gradience and variation in phonology provide crucial evidence in developing our understanding of grammar in general. My main current project is documenting generational and regional variation in the tone sandhi of the dialects around Jinhua in Zhejiang, China. There is an amazing amount of regional variation in this area, and a fair amount of generational differences, too. 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**, 1st-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. This spread causes some phonology-theoretic issues so I'm looking into accounting for the fixed directional spread pattern using evidence from perception and production. One of the many positives about UCSD is the pro-experimental attitude, which means you can put your phonological theorizing into practice.

## **Bethany Keffala**, 1st-year student

(BA, Bryn Mawr College)

My primary interests within phonology are tone, prosody, and metrical structure. My current research involves investigating tone patterns in 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. Sharon Rose has provided invaluable guidance during this project, despite having vast amounts of her own very interesting work to do. Since arriving, I have not ceased to be impressed by the faculty's accessibility, and their generosity with their time. We seem to have a very collaborative community here, which is vital for the emergence and evolution of new and interesting ideas.

# Recent and upcoming activities by UCSD phonologists

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## Publications

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**Cynthia Kilpatrick** and Chris Barker (submitted). The semantics of the double modal construction in Southern US English.

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**, Jessica Barlow, and Sarah Cragg (submitted). Compensatory reduplication in child phonology.

**Eric Baković** (to appear). Abstractness and motivation in phonological theory. *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics* 2.1.

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

George Gibbard, Hannah Rohde and **Sharon Rose**. 2009. Moro Noun Class Morphology. In *Selected Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, 106-117.

**Eric Baković**. 2007. A revised typology of opaque generalizations. *Phonology* 24, 217-259.

**Eric Baković**. 2007. Local assimilation and constraint interaction. In *The Cambridge Handbook of Phonology*, 335-352.

**Bożena Pająk**. 2007. Polish clitics: consequences for the analysis of optionality in OT. *Proceedings of WECOL 2007*, 173-188.

**Sharon Rose** and Lisa King. 2007. Speech error elicitation and co-occurrence restrictions in two Ethiopian Semitic languages. *Language and Speech* 50, 451-504.

**Sharon Rose**. 2007. Chaha (Gurage) Morphology. In *Morphologies of Asia and Africa*, 399-424.

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## Presentations

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Farrell Ackerman and **Sharon Rose**. Aug. 2009. Conditions on object marker ordering in Moro. *World Congress on African Linguistics* 6, Cologne, Germany.

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**. May 2009. Second language influence on perception of first language phonotactics. *2nd ASA Special Workshop on Speech*, Portland, OR.

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

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**. Mar. 2009. The acquisition of ungrammaticality in L2 phonotactics. *USC Phon Lunch*, Los Angeles.

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

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.

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

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**. 2009. Learning a phonotactic subset in second language acquisition. *83rd Annual Meeting of the LSA*, San Francisco.

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

**Sharon Rose** and Ryan Shosted. 2008. Tigrinya fricatives: are they really fricatives? *North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics* 36, Chicago.

**Bożena Pająk**. 2008. Perception of sibilant geminates by non-native listeners. *Southern California Workshop on Phonetics/Phonology*, Claremont, CA.

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**. 2008. Phonotactic knowledge in second language learners. *Southern California Workshop on Phonetics/Phonology*, Claremont, CA.

**Eric Baković** and **Bożena Pająk**. 2008. Why and how not to counterbleed. *Workshop on Phonological Voicing Variation*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Ryan Shosted and **Sharon Rose**. 2008. Affrication of ejective 'fricatives' in Tigrinya. *82nd Annual Meeting of the LSA*, Chicago.

**Eric Baković** and **Bożena Pająk**. 2008. Contingent optionality. *82nd Annual Meeting of the LSA*, Chicago.

Roberto Gutierrez, Lew Shapiro, Jessica Barlow, Leah Fabiano-Smith, **Cynthia Kilpatrick**, Mary Orton, and Julie Merrill. 2008. Online effects of phonotactic constraints across two languages. *Workshop on Consonant Clusters and Structural Complexity*, Munich, Germany.

**Bożena Pająk**. 2007. Polish clitics: consequences for the analysis of optionality in OT. *WECOL 2007*, San Diego.

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## Funding

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

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**. 2008-2009. Latino Studies Research Initiative grant (\$3000)

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**. 2008. UCSD Social Sciences research travel grant (\$500 for dissertation research travel)

**Cynthia Kilpatrick**. 2007, 2008. UCSD Linguistics research and travel grant (varying amounts for conference travel and subject payments)

**Eric Baković** and **Bożena Pająk**. 2008. Eleanor Roosevelt Faculty Fellow grant (for research and conference travel)

**Bożena Pająk**. 2007, 2008. UCSD Linguistics research and travel grant (varying amounts for conference travel)

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## Graduates

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**Nicoleta Bateman**, PhD 2007

Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies, California State University, San Marcos

Dissertation title: *A Crosslinguistic Investigation of Palatalization*

**Alicia Muñoz Sánchez**, PhD 2003

Spanish Language Academic Coordinator, Department of Linguistics, UCSD

Dissertation title: *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 title: *Phonetics of Language Attrition: vowel production and articulatory setting in the speech of Western Armenian heritage speakers*

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## ...and our latest big news!

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**Cynthia Kilpatrick** has received a job offer from the University of Texas at Arlington! Way to go, Cindy!