

# Prosodic structure

*Mariapaola D'Imperio*

Université de Provence – Aix-Marseille

[mariapaola.dimperio@lpl-aix.fr](mailto:mariapaola.dimperio@lpl-aix.fr)

## Course description and Objectives

This mini-course is intended to provide a thorough overview of the different aspects of speech prosody (stress, intonation, rhythm, and prosodic units) analyzed simultaneously from a phonological, acoustic and perceptual angle. In particular, emphasis will be placed on the analysis, representation and the phonetic implementation of the prosodic structure in the framework of Autosegmental-Metrical theory of intonational phonology. The main goals of the course will be to introduce the notion of prosodic structure (especially concerning the link between the tonal and the metrical plane) on the one hand, and the exploration of the concept of tonal alignment in multiple languages on the other. The chosen approach for discussing prosodic structure is both theoretical and laboratory based, along the lines of laboratory phonology research.

The following are among the topics addressed: the higher levels of prosodic phrasing among languages (intonational phrase and intermediate phrase); prosodic phrasing and prominence; types of tonal events and patterns of pitch accent distribution; tonal alignment; phrasing and intonation; the perception of acoustic cues to phrasal constituents. Data from Romance languages will be employed to illustrate the different topics, with a special focus on Italian and French.

## Syllabus

### Day 1

0. Introduction: overview of the course
1. Basics: what is prosody and intonation?
2. AM Theory and tonal alignment

### Day 2

3. Stress vs. pitch accent
4. Prosodic and intonational phrasing
5. Intonational phrasing in Romance

### Day 3

6. The intermediate phrase in French
7. Acoustic cues
8. Phonological cues

### Day 4

9. Perception and use of the intermediate phrase
10. Focus in French (if we have time)
11. Wrap up: what did we learn?

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