

**Visibility and recoverability in phonology:
the role of phonology in morphological linearization**

Workshop organizers:

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Relevant sub-disciplines: phonology, morphology

Morphological relationships and structures are made opaque due to various factors in the process of derivation and inflection. The aim of this workshop is to provide a typology of the phonological and morphological properties that make them visible or recoverable at the suprasegmental, segmental and morphological levels, and ultimately provide a typology of recoverability of morphological relationships via phonological analysis. To this effect the workshop will bring together case studies from typologically diverse languages (concatenative, nonconcatenative, agglutinative, polysynthetic etc.), including language isolates and underdescribed and understudied languages.

Phonological phenomena that are sensitive to morphological boundaries / constituency have been the topic of much discussion in the past, in different frameworks: level 1 vs level 2 affixes (Kiparsky 1982, Bermúdez-Otero 2018); analytic vs synthetic morphology (Kaye 1995), prefix/suffix/root asymmetry (Gouskova 2023), a.o. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss these phenomena from various theoretical perspectives with a particular focus on how phonology can make morphology more or less visible and what role phonological processes and alternations play in recovering morphological information. We will take stock of the results obtained in the past and provide new perspectives via the discussion of phenomena that have been little studied until now and which provide new insights from a wide range of languages. Some authors have argued that phonology does not play any role in word-formation, e.g. Piggot (1998) shows cases in Lardil and Mohawk where a phonological process of epenthesis always applies to strings that constitute well-formed words, Kalin (accepted) argues that infixes never disrupt word-level phonology. Rather than treating phonology and morphology as strictly modular, we are interested in better understanding those phenomena that show the fuzzy boundaries between these domains. Bendjaballah (2014) shows that the complete decomposition of phonological segments into their constituent parts is necessary for the correct identification of non-concatenative markers in Berber languages, Louriz (2025) explains how perception/adaptation of final nasal vowels leads to their recoverability as a feminine marker in French loanwords into Moroccan Arabic; she also shows that Moroccan Arabic uses its native phonology in parsing foreign words but the morphology of the source language in the formation of derivational and inflected forms, which disrupts and makes the base templatic morphology less visible; also, Louriz (2019, to appear) demonstrates how phonology overrides morphology in fast speech, which makes grammatical morphemes redundant and absent from production, but recoverable in perception; Kula (2016) discusses tonal phenomena from Bantu languages with patterns where tonal processes redefine or override morphological marking, making the latter redundant or else resulting in multiple exponence; Kaldhol (2024) shows how tonal and non-tonal exponents interact in Heiban (Niger-Congo) complex morphological systems, resulting in a non-isomorphism between form and function.

This leads to a number of research questions of which the workshop will focus on the following:

- In what way can phonology be used to delineate and make morphological boundaries visible, both at the suprasegmental level (e.g. tone spreading, accent shift, umlaut) and at the segmental level (e.g. sandhi phenomena)?

- In what ways does phonology obscure or make morphology less visible (e.g. with skeletal affixes or floating elements/features)?
- Conversely, how does morphology obscure or make phonology less visible?
- How does phonology affect linearization of morphological constituents?
- How do prosodic requirements affect the visibility or recoverability of morphological information and vice versa?
- How do phonology and morphology interact in parsing foreign words?
- Do phonological constraints shape the size of morphological units?
- Are there cases where phonologically conditioned alternations are reinterpreted as morphological information (e.g. consonant gradation)?
- How does NLP account for the perceptual recoverability of invisible (unproduced) morphological information?
- What are the implications of obscured morphological recoverability or visibility in child or second language acquisition?

The potential contributors cover a selection of empirical phenomena relevant to the topics above. They cover various language families and offer theoretically diverse perspectives. In addition, we included both young scholars (Falletti, Kaldhol) as well as highly respected experts in the field. In our view this complementarity ensures a fruitful synergy as well as the formulation of crosslinguistic generalizations at the crossroads of our respective fields of expertise.

Potential contributors (see separate document for the corresponding short abstracts):

<i>title</i>	<i>author</i>	<i>affiliation</i>	<i>language family</i>
High Tone Spreading in Tira	N.H. Kaldhol	<i>The Arctic University of Norway Tromsø</i>	Niger-Congo
What the metrical conditioning of umlaut in German can tell us about the morphology-phonology interface	B. Köhnlein	<i>The Ohio State University</i>	Germanic
External sandhi in French at the syntax-phonology interface	B. Storme	<i>Leiden University</i>	Romance
Faraway, So Close!	M. Pöchtrager	<i>Univ. of Vienna</i>	Finno-Ugric
Revisiting morphological strata in compounding	K. Nasukawa	<i>Tohoku Gakuin University</i>	Japanese
Item-Specific Morpho-phonology in Basque	K. Balogné Bercés & S. Ulfsbjorninn	<i>Katolícka univerzita v Ružomberku & Memorial Univ. Newfoundland</i>	Basque
Ghost material and skeletal suffixes in Sengwer verbs	F. Falletti	<i>University of Edinburgh</i>	Nilotic

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