Course title: A practical introduction to stress, accent, and tone.

The course will cover a range of theoretical, typological, and practical issues in the general area of stress, accent, and tone, with the overall aim of providing a framework for successful fieldwork on poorly documented languages.

Day 1 will be a broad general introduction to the range of tonal and accentual phenomena in the world, including discussion of various typological proposals, and focusing as much as possible on the potential relevance of Amazonian languages for developing our understanding.

Day 2 will discuss some of the problems with including stress, accent, and tone under the general label ‘prosody’. We will define ‘stress’ in terms of phonological (‘metrical’) relations between larger constituents, rather than as a phonetic property of individual syllables, and distinguish this ‘metrical’ basis of stress from the ‘autosegmental’ basis of tone and accent. These theoretical ideas will be related back to the typological and descriptive issues from Day 1.

Day 3 will concentrate on practical matters, including both instrumental phonetic aspects such as cross-speaker pitch range normalization and segmental influences on fundamental frequency, and more general questions of how to elicit ‘prosodic’ features in field and laboratory settings.

Some useful bibliographical references:


