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Workshop

Historical Phonology and Phonological Theory

Organizers: [Martin Joachim Kümmel](#) (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)

[Roland Noske](#) (Université de Lille 3)

Contact email: martin-joachim.kuemmel@uni-jena.de

rgnoske@gmail.com

Workshop homepage:

<http://www.indogermanistik.uni-jena.de/dokumente/PDF/histphon.pdf>

Reconstruction of segment inventories of languages and description of sound changes (e.g. from PIE to daughter languages) often date back a century or more, from a time when linguistic insights were radically different from the ones of today. Nevertheless, analyses of 19th and early 20th century scholars are often taken for granted. This discrepancy is also reflected in the present-day division between historical linguistics and synchronic linguistics: whereas in, e.g., Indo-European or Uralic linguistics one often focuses on isolated phenomena, a more systemic vision prevails in synchronic linguistics. At the same time, many synchronic phonologists are usually still not very interested in descriptions of historical phenomena. In more recent times, some attempts have been made to bridge this gap. In historical linguistics systemic approaches have at least been *advocated* more and more since Martinet 1955 (cf. also Back 1991) but have still not been very much applied (like in Greenberg 2000 or Kobayashi 2004). In theoretical phonology, approaches such as evolutionary phonology (Blevins 2004) have tried to profit from the data and insights of historical linguistics and include them in the modeling of phonology. In Honeybone & Salmons (to appear) there will also be various contributions of this kind. The aim of this workshop is to strengthen these developments and make historical linguistics and modern phonology come together and benefit from each other. More specifically, the workshop will focus on theoretical phonological topics like, e.g., syllabic theory, vocalic scale, phonotactics, frequency effects, loan word phonology, constraint re-ordering in Optimality Theory, in their relationship with more concrete historical phonological topics like Siever's Law, the genesis of areal sound patterns, the development of heteroclisy through gliding, the advent of palatalization, Modelling of both phonological change and phonological theory will be discussed, as well as more practical theoretical matters as the organization of databases of phonological change.

In addition to the papers, the workshop will also include an introduction given by the convenors, and a final discussion.

References

Back, Michael. 1991. *Die synchrone Prozeßbasis des natürlichen Lautwandels*. Stuttgart: Steiner.

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- Greenberg, Marc L. 2000. *A historical phonology of the Slovene language*. Heidelberg: Winter.
- Honeybone, Patrick & Joseph Salmons (eds.), to appear. *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Phonology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
[Individual articles already available via <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/>]
- Kobayashi, Masato. 2004. *Historical phonology of Old Indo-Aryan consonants*. Tokyo: Research Institute for languages and cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.
- Martinet, André. 1955. *Economie des changements phonétiques: traité de phonologie diachronique*. Berne: Francke. 2. éd. Berne: Francke 1964.