

## **Instrumental approaches to prosodic description: stress in Savosavo**

Candide Simard, School of Oriental and African Studies, London

cs75@soas.ac.uk

This presentation will review methods used in the description of the prosodic system of Savosavo (Solomon Islands), by which phonetic behaviour is analyzed prior to developing a phonological analysis. We will exemplify the approach with the findings obtained from the instrumental analysis of the stress patterns in Savosavo words; stress being broadly defined as a linguistic property that specifies one syllable as 'stronger' than its neighbours. We present a quantitative analysis of the measurements of the acoustic cues of pitch (F0), duration, and intensity associated with stressed and unstressed syllables in a dataset of words carefully selected from elicited speech. We then make use of a re-synthesis tool, the qTA component embedded in PENTAtainer, to test our initial hypotheses regarding stress placement. The tool uses the results of the quantitative analysis to generate F0 contours and compare them with the individual real utterances in the dataset. Our results demonstrate that methods usually reserved to the laboratory can be adapted to field data with convincing outcomes. We will finally discuss theoretical implications of using such an approach for prosodic description.