

Harmony in Optimality Theory

Rachel Walker
University of Southern California
rwalker@usc.edu

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Course Overview

Harmony phenomena, such as vowel harmony or consonant harmony, provide a window to exploring several fundamental issues in phonological theory. This course examines recent advances in this topic, centering on (i) what harmony reveals about Optimality Theory and conversely (ii) what Optimality Theory reveals about harmony. On the first issue, properties of harmony patterns, such as transparency, opacity, and the set of participating sounds, have led to developments in the area of Correspondence Theory, locality, constraint scales, and representations of harmonic structures. Patterns involving position sensitivity have spurred progress in characterizing positional licensing constraints. On the second issue, a core finding is that harmony is not an isolated phenomenon. Constraints that promote harmony are also involved in many other phonological patterns. This intersects with the course's investigation into the formal and functional motivations that underlie harmony, and the spectrum of their function in phonology in general. Material under focus will include recent work on Agreement by Correspondence, harmonies involving feature extension, licensing, and prominence sensitivity.

Organization

Date	Phenomena	Primary Languages	Theoretical Approach
Monday, June 19	Consonant harmony: Nasal harmony	Kikongo, Ganda	Agreement by Correspondence
Tuesday, June 20	Consonant harmony: Sibilant harmony	Kinyarwanda, Sanskrit	Feature extension
Wednesday, June 21	Vowel harmony: Stress sensitivity – metaphony	Central Veneto, Grado	Licensing
Thursday, June 22	Vowel Harmony: Prominence and domains	Servigliano	Feature extension, licensing