

Laboratory Approaches to Portuguese Phonology

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Widely spoken languages are critical to the understanding of speech and language due to their spatial and demographic variability. As the third European language in number of speakers, Portuguese has challenged phoneticians and phonologists with its wealth of varieties even before the advent of XXth century linguistics. Problems such as nasalization, vowel reduction, stress, accent, rhythm, and ablaut/umlaut have been investigated in light of comparative grammar, the neogrammarian hypothesis, European and American structuralism, generative phonology and optimality theory, just to name a few. Yet, until recently, the questions of phonetic grounding raised by this literature lacked a firm basis for treatment.

Recently, laboratory phonology changed this picture, providing new tools for the treatment of classical questions and leading to the discovery of new challenging phenomena made visible by instrumental methodology. The range of questions spans phonological subsystems to variability, contact, acquisition and change. Thus, Portuguese is gradually gaining space in meetings such as ICPhS, PAPE, and LabPhon. In particular, the 16th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, held in Lisbon last June, received a sizeable number of submissions on several of aspects and varieties of Portuguese.

Thus, this special issue of the Journal of Portuguese Linguistics aims at facilitating contact between laboratory researchers interested in all aspects of Portuguese phonology. The collection will offer participants a forum to discuss both theoretical and methodological issues. Ideally, the submissions should be representative of all domains of phonology, regardless of theoretical foundation, and should address a wide range of issues, including phonological primitives, social variability, L1 or L2 acquisition, phonological impairment, etc.

The call welcomes any question relevant to the understanding of Portuguese phonology that the laboratory approach may prove to illuminate. The topics may range from classical to frontier, as long as the argument rests on solid instrumental data, acoustic articulatory or perceptual. Authors may choose to deepen the analyses presented in recent meetings or to propose entirely novel topics. Comparisons of Portuguese to other languages are equally welcome.

As a first step, we ask contributors to submit a two-page abstract to the email addresses albano@unicamp.br and didier.demolin@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr. Evaluation of the proposals will consider overall quality, relevance to the special issue, and contribution to laboratory phonology. Abstracts should make explicit how the proposal uses laboratory tools to confront the challenges of Portuguese phonology. The authors of accepted abstracts will receive an invitation to submit a full paper, which will then undergo the standard peer review process.

Timetable

Deadline for submission of 1-page abstract: **15 February 2019**

Invitation for full paper submission: **15 April 2019**

Deadline for submission of full papers: **15 August 2019**