

Aspects of prosody in Djambarrpuyŋu

Kathleen Jepson

Centre for Language Studies, Radboud University

In this talk, I provide an overview of prosody in Djambarrpuyŋu, an Australian Indigenous language. I focus on an investigation of the intonational phonology of the language, taking an auto-segmental metrical approach, and discuss the role of intonation in encoding information structure. What we know of relevant aspects of prosody in Australian languages, gathered from a wide range of phonological, phonetic and grammatical sources, is reviewed. I explain methodological choices in data collection, which was conducted during five months of fieldwork, and how the analysis evolved through the inclusion of different types of data. The contribution of the Djambarrpuyŋu findings to what we know of Australian languages are highlighted, as well as how I navigated some of the challenges posed to researchers in understanding prosody in understudied languages.