

Phonological transparency & opacity
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Words and phrases do not remain constant. Alternations involving phonological features (assimilation, dissimilation etc.), changes in syllable structure (due to epenthesis, gemination, syncope) and of course adapting loans from various other languages have far-reaching consequences for the phonological grammar. What remains transparent and when do forms become opaque? Evidence comes from synchronic and diachronic phonology and processing experiments.

More concretely, we will examine the following:

- (i) asymmetry in consonant quantity contrast — its diachronic source, reanalysis of [STRIDENT] + [LABIAL, SONORANT] clusters into underlying quantity contrast, development of new *heavy* consonantal morphemes, and asymmetric processing of weight
- (ii) asymmetry in the inception and loss of *nonesuch phonemes*

Within the principle of *Pertinacity*, we hope to understand what tends to remain stable for centuries, and how if at all, reanalysis occurs. We will focus on Bengali with occasional reference to Germanic.