

Call for Papers:
THE LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY OF AMAZONIA
ALT 11

Session organizers: Patience Epps and Lev Michael

Amazonia is one of the most linguistically diverse regions of the world, with over fifty language families and isolates represented within its borders (see e.g. Rodrigues 2000). Yet Amazonia has long been vastly under-represented in typological sampling due to the scarcity of accessible descriptions of its many languages. Happily, however, this situation has begun to change due to a surge of high-quality linguistic studies that have emerged over the last two decades. And even with limited earlier representation, Amazonian languages have provided important insights into the extent and patterning of typological variation (C. Everett 2010, Campbell 2012), and we may expect that many more such insights are to come. Amazonian linguistics represents one of the major current growth areas in both descriptive and typological/theoretical linguistics.

This goal of this organized theme session is to promote fresh explorations into the typology of Amazonian languages, and to initiate new discussions around this topic. We encourage perspectives that consider both how Amazonian linguistic structures may inform a broader typological understanding of particular phenomena (i.e. what is possible, rare, or common in global perspective), and how these phenomena themselves pattern with respect to the Amazon basin (i.e. what's where why; cf. Bickel 2007). We also hope that this session will lay preliminary groundwork for an eventual edited compilation dealing with the linguistic typology of Amazonia, although we do not intend to publish a proceedings of this workshop.

With these considerations in mind, we invite proposals for papers investigating areas of phonology and grammar in Amazonian languages from a typological perspective. We encourage works that are relatively broad in scope, and which explore a given typological category's instantiation across multiple languages, families, and/or subregions within the Amazon basin. Suggested considerations include patterns evident in the focal topic as realized across the languages considered, noteworthy deviations from (or conformity with) globally defined patterns, and any other typologically significant phenomena.

Please submit abstracts (500 words) to Patience Epps (pattieepps@austin.utexas.edu) and Lev Michael (levmichael@berkeley.edu) no later than Nov. 20, 2014.

References cited:

- Bickel, Balthasar. 2007. Typology in the 21st century: Major current developments. *Linguistic Typology* 11 (1): 239-251.
- Campbell, Lyle. 2012. Typological characteristics of South American indigenous languages. In *The Indigenous Languages of South America: A Comprehensive Guide*, ed. by Lyle Campbell and Verónica Grondona. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Everett, Caleb. 2010. A Survey of Contemporary Research on Amazonian Languages. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 4/5:319–336.
- Rodrigues, Aryon. 2000. Panorama das línguas indígenas da Amazônia. In *As línguas amazônicas hoje*, ed. by Francesc Queixalós and Odile Renault-Lescure, 15-28. São Paulo: Instituto Socioambiental, Museu Parense Emílio Goeldi.