



**WORLD CONGRESS OF AFRICAN LINGUISTICS 9 –
RABAT
MOROCCO**

**African Languages in a Global World:
From Description to State Policies**

August 25th – 28th, 2018

**Call for Contributions to
A Special Interests Panel on**

Khoisan Phonetics and Phonology

“Khoisan” is commonly used as a typological cover term for the non-Bantu, non-Cushitic click-languages of southern Africa. Following recent research, “Khoisan” can be grouped into three independent lineages, Kx’a, Tuu, Khoe-Kwadi, spoken in southern Africa, plus two eastern African isolates, Sandawe and Hazda. Southern African Khoisan in particular is known for having the largest phoneme inventories of the world’s languages, including both complex stop segments and stop clusters featuring click sounds. To date, only few “Khoisan” languages have been described thoroughly from a phonological point of view, and in consequence, little data is available to evaluate hypotheses brought forward on their typological peculiarities. The lexical roots of southern African “Khoisan” languages appear to fit into a restricted set of bimoraic templates ($C_1V_1C_2V_2$, $C_1V_1V_2$, C_1V_1N), whereas C_1 may be a complex stop or a stop cluster consisting of C-onset and C-offset. It has further been observed that these templates, as well as restrictions on the appearance of vowels and consonants in specific slots transcend language families and may therefore be considered areal features.

This panel seeks to bring together recent advances in the description and comparative study of little known, often highly endangered languages. We welcome contributions on all topics relating to “Khoisan” phonetics and phonology: these may be acoustic studies, treatments of individual sound classes, descriptions of language-specific phoneme inventories, observations on sound change patterns, descriptions of supra-segmental features like tone and stress, as well as contributions on processes of diachronic change and historical relatedness.

While we intend to focus on southern African “Khoisan”, papers on eastern African as well as non-“Khoisan” click languages are also welcomed.



All contributions are to be submitted to BOTH of the following email addresses with the note “WOCAL9 Panel on Khoisan” as the email subject:

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The deadline for abstracts submission: December 8th, 2017

Notification of acceptance: December 31st, 2017

Panel coordinator:

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