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## **Establishing a cross-linguistic database of phonetic notation systems**

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In contrast to what non-linguists would expect, phonetic notation is highly idiosyncratic in linguistics, and not only the various subfields of linguistics disagree largely on the specific symbols they use to denote the sounds of languages, also the large databases of sound inventories (PBase, Mielke 2008, Phoible, Moran et al. 2014, or GLD, Ruhlen 2008) show a very high degree of variation. Inspired by the efforts of the Concepticon project (List et al. 2016) which links glosses used to denote concepts across different questionnaires, we present initial efforts to link different phonetic notation systems to a catalogue of speech sounds. This is achieved with help of a database accompanied by a software framework that uses a strict dialect of the International Phonetic Alphabet as the base representation of speech sounds which can then further be linked to either concrete phonetic notation systems which differ from this base line, or to additional meta-data, including feature values (e.g., Chomsky and Halle 1968), phoneme inventories (by linking to PBase, Phoible, or GLD), or different versions of sonority hierarchies (Jespersen 1904).

Since the whole enterprise is work in progress, we won't be able to present any immediate results, but we hope that we can present basic ideas as well as burning questions which we would hope to discuss with the members of the workshop. In this way, we hope we can not only profit from the experience of our colleagues, but maybe even initiate concrete collaboration with those who see and understand the need of increasing the comparability of linguistic data.

### References

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