

## **Tone and intonation in a Bantu language: Embosi**

Martial Embanga Aborobongui & Annie Riailand

CNRS, Paris – France

*This talk provides a comprehensive study of tone and intonation in a Bantu language: Embosi (C25) spoken in the Northern part of the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) mainly in the town of Mbondzi by about 10,000 people. It aims at making contributions to the study of tone in Embosi and provides the first analysis of interaction between tone realizations and intonation in a language of this group.*

*At the tonal level, we will focus on processes occurring at the junction of Phonological Phrases (PP), which have not been fully understood previously (Obenga 1973, L Fontaney 1988, 1989; Ndinga Oba 2003). They mainly involve tonal and segmental reorganization associated with a vowel elision. We will show that, when a vowel is deleted, its tone might be deleted or not depending upon various conditions, such as the nature of the tones (which triggers or not OCP) and, more surprisingly, whether the tones have single or multiple lexical association. The resulting tones determine the number of moras in the output. Thus, if two tones remain, two moras are necessary and a long vowel will be. If only one is left, a short vowel occurs.*

*At the intonational level, we will consider interaction of tone realization and intonation at the end of Intonational Phrases. We will show, in particular, that assertion is characterized by a L% boundary tone and a lowering of the final H tones. On the other hand, the question is signalled by a register expansion, without any boundary tone or a zero boundary tone (T0%).*