

## **Ricardo Bermúdez-Otero: Tutorial on Overwriting**

This tutorial will address morphological and phonological phenomena, such as inflectional classes and cophonologies, which appear to involve the partition of the lexicon into arbitrary subsets. I shall focus in particular on grammatical models which handle these phenomena by means of diacritic features. Whilst some scholars are skeptical about resorting to this expedient (e.g. James Blevins 2004), others have responded to the challenge by enriching the theory of class features in a bid to extend its empirical coverage: notably, it has been proposed that decomposing inflectional class features into more elementary primitives makes it possible to capture systematic patterns of cross-class syncretism (e.g. Oltra-Massuet 1999, Alexiadou & Müller 2008, Trommer 2008). Among other things, I shall explore the possible advantages of extending these ideas to the modelling of cophonologies. Could patterns of overlap between cophonologies in languages such as Japanese (e.g. Itô & Mester 1995:834) be captured through the decomposition of the relevant diacritic features? Can derived environment effects in phonology be handled in terms of the transmission of diacritic features such [Native] and [Foreign] between nodes in morphosyntactic structures (cf. Jurgec 2008).