

## Sound patterns and sound change: New Threads in the Panchronic Tapestry

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Evolutionary Phonology (Blevins 2004, 2006, 2015 and work cited there) attempts to incorporate three central strands of research on sound patterns and sound change in an attempt to explain both the basis of sound change, and the nature of synchronic sound patterns. One strand is the phonetic basis of sound change, widely assumed by the Neogrammarians, but refined and strengthened with experimental and variationist studies of the 20th century, as in the research paradigms of John J. Ohala and William Labov respectively. A second strand is typological, with attempts to explain sound pattern frequency. Common synchronic sound patterns are associated with common instances of sound change or multiple pathways of change, while rare sound patterns are hypothesized to follow from rare instances or combinations of sound change, or to have non-phonetic bases in rule inversion or analogy. A third strand of investigation is closest, in spirit, to the panchronic program of Haudricourt in exploring universal laws of sound change, or universal relationships between sound patterns and sound change, independent of language-specific properties (Haudricourt 1940, Hagège and Haudricourt 1978). In this talk, I briefly review the first two areas, before focusing on new findings in the third. A recent survey of voiceless sonorants reveals highly limited pathways of evolution (Blevins to appear a), while studies of areal sound patterns show idiosyncratic language-specific instances of sound change, with universal features of regularity and phonetic conditioning (Blevins to appear b). A final study reveals that at least one kind of sound change occurs if and only if two languages of distinct types are in contact.

### Selected References

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