

## **The phonology of Sardinian: historical developments and pattern of variation**

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Sardinian is a Romance language spoken in Sardinia, where the main (and official) language is Italian, while Sardinian can be considered as a minority and endangered language (Moseley 2010). Sardinian and Italian exhibit a discrete degree of structural distance from each other and between them there is no mutual intelligibility (Loporcaro 2009).

Sardinian can be subdivided into two main dialectal subgroups: Campidanese, spoken in the southern part of the island, and Logudorese-Nuorese, spoken in the central-northern region (Viridis 2019).

After a brief description of the phonological system of Sardinian (Mereu 2020), this talk will focus on the vowel inventory of the Campidanese variety from a historical and synchronic perspective. Among the phenomena that characterize the stressed and unstressed vowel inventory, special attention will be given to metaphony, a phonological process mainly involving stressed mid vowels. This process also exists in the variety of regional Italian spoken in Sardinia (Loi Corvetto 1983).

The discussion of the phonological processes presented will be supported by spectroacoustic examples drawn from a corpus of spontaneous speech collected in Cagliari (Mereu 2019).

### **References**

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Moseley, C. (ed.) (2010), *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*. Paris, UNESCO. <http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/endangeredlanguages/atlas>

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