What prosody can tell us about linguistic and psychological representations
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Prosody is typically defined as structured acoustic-phonetic information that is independent of an utterance’s speech segments. It includes the phrasing, rhythm, and intonation of an utterance. Prosody is perhaps unique among linguistic representations in that it conveys information about linguistic representations, the psychological processes that underlie them, as well as paralinguistic information. Work from the theoretical linguistics literature has played an important role in advancing our understanding of how prosody works in language production and comprehension. In this talk, I will present work from my lab, as well as the prosody literature more generally, that suggests that psychological investigations of prosody can also help us answer general questions about prosody’s underlying linguistic representations.