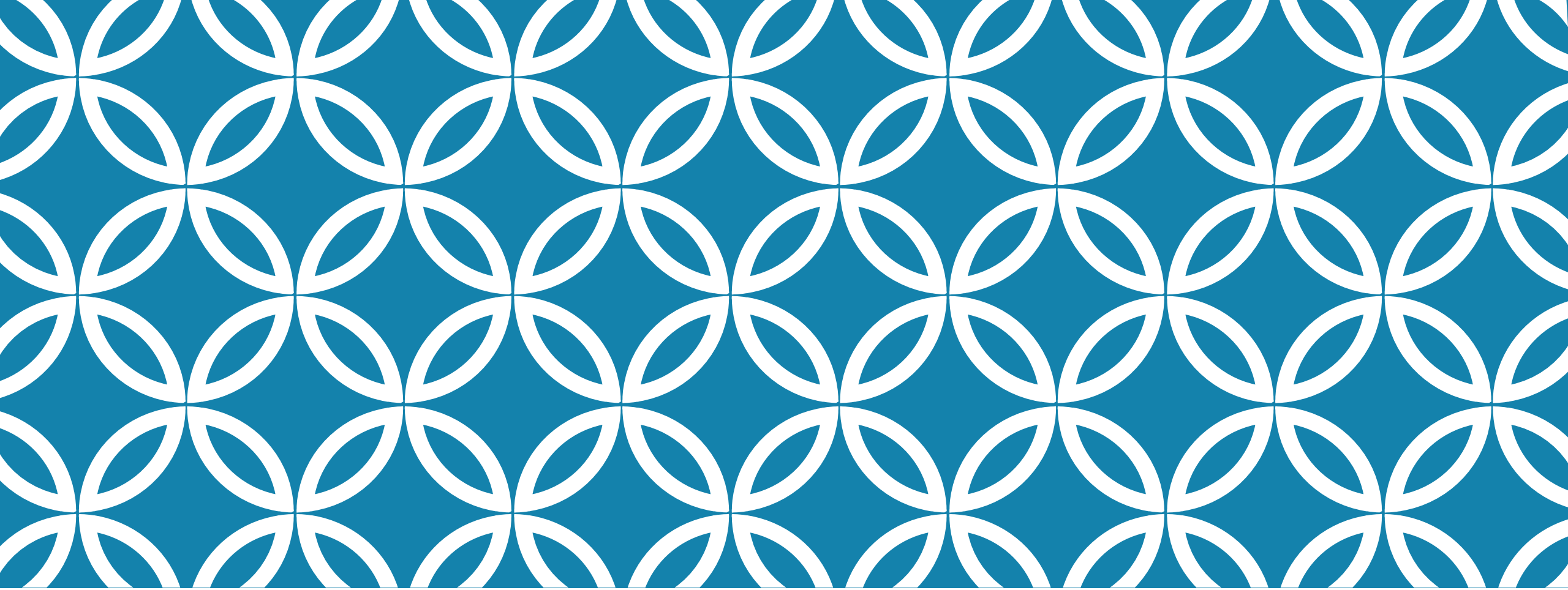

PROSODIC PRESUMPTIONS

Anne Whitaker &
Beatrice Sszczepek Reed

WHAT IS PROSODY?

“Most speaker's personal prosody confines them to signature patters of inflection and unconscious habitual rhythms.” Kristin Linklater 2016

“We are so under the misapprehension that vocal habits add colour to our speech and zest to our personalities. Generally, the opposite is truer: a habit drains our speech of colour and usually sets us further adrift from our real selves and voices.” Rodenburg 1992

PROSODIC PRESUMPTIONS IN TRAINING

‘Dysconscious racism was apparent in most of the participants’ statements, particularly with regards to notions of what is “classic,” “universal,” “standard,” and “neutral”’. Ginther, 2015

‘Simply put, seeking to undo all the vocal markers of the way a person’s been shaped by economic, political, and social forces, she says, is a white supremacist theory’. McAlpine & Jahnke, 2020

PROSODIC ORIENTATION

How prosodic expectations play a part in interaction:

- Hidden Brain: Why Conversations Go Wrong
  - https://pca.st/654mpxoe

'...one has to listen similarly to power: valuing the same sounds in the same ways and reproducing only certain sounds the listening ear deems appropriate, pleasurable, and respectable.'

The Sonic Color Line by Stoever

TRAINING PROSODY IN VOICE WORK

- Is this work pure voice work or voice into text work?
  - Dialogical vs Monological Work

VOCAL MIRRORING

Working on pitch mirroring in longer phrases.

- Prosody is physical, so start with the body.
- Vocal viewpoints: ear training and active listening.

VOCAL CONTINUATION

Rhythm offers

- Taking something that has been offered and changing it up to create a new offer.
- Building up rhythm skills and working towards vocal improv.

VOCAL INTERACTION

Or finding the thought!

- Prosodic phrasing, units of meaning, and the thought for the actor.
- Vocal gesture and prosodic character.

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