Evidence in Favor of the Pano-Takanan Hypothesis
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As noted since the end of the 19th Century (Armentia 1883, 1887; Brinton 1891, 1892), Panoan and Takanan languages exhibit a number of lexical and structural affinities that cannot be ascribed to mere chance and are not readily detectable instances of borrowing. Up to this day there is no absolute consensus as to whether the observed similarities are due to genetic inheritance or long-term language contact. In this presentation, we offer lexical and grammatical evidence in support of the hypothesis that Panoan and Takanan are most probably genetically related. In addition, we argue that languages from these two families have borrowed from each other, as well as from other languages, in relatively early and recent times.