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**ABSTRACTS**

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*Emerging regional differences in final obstruents*

This paper explores phonetics and phonology of final obstruent 'voicing' across southern Wisconsin, both geographical differences and changes in apparent time. We examine generations of speakers across southern Wisconsin, focusing primarily on glottal pulsing on the consonant and ratio of rhyme vowel-consonant duration. In southeastern WI, older speakers show clear distinction, but young speakers realize coda /z/ in or near the expected /s/ acoustic space. In southwestern and south-central WI, younger speakers show greatest glottal pulsing on /z/ of any speakers in the study, marking the distinction more than elders and relying on glottal pulsing rather than vowel duration.

**Wendy Baker** (Brigham Young University) wendy_baker@byu.edu
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*Linguistic behavior and religious affiliation in Utah: Differentiation below the level of sociolinguistic awareness*

Conventional wisdom among linguists holds that differences in religious affiliation do not correlate with linguistic variation in the United States. However, our analysis of 140 residents of Utah County, Utah finds significant differences in the treatment of several linguistic variables by adherents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ("Mormons") and those unaffiliated with that religion ("non-Mormons"). Further, these differences exist for both socially salient and non-salient variables. We conclude that this linguistic differentiation is the result of Mormons and non-Mormons having developed largely separate social networks in this region over time.

**Douglas S. Bigham (**University of Texas at Austin) douglas.s.bigham@gmail.com
*Reconsidering vowels as mathematical and statistical entities: How much variation should there be?*

Vowel data in most work is based on format values averaged across tokens, environments, and speakers. Though this method obscures intra- and inter-speaker variation, we accept this loss of information for ease of interpretation. Because vowels are treated as mathematical and statistical entities, this averaging is considered acceptable.
    However, when the data are not combined a more diverse picture emerges. Our question becomes not only how we might explain this diversity via sociolinguistic means, but also whether or not treating the perceptual and indexical entities of vowels as mathematical units remains a safe assumption.

**Rebecca Childs** (Carolina Coastal University) rchilds@coastal.edu
**Matt Hunt Gardner** (University of Toronto) matt.gardner@utoronto.ca
*Staking claims: Two communities and one salient local marker*

This paper examines the "ownership" of *b'y*, the iconic relic production of *boy* used on the islands of Newfoundland and Cape Breton, and asks how this feature has come to index, internally and externally, two separate dialect regions. Using socio-cultural and historical qualitative data and quantitative phonetic and syntactic data from the Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove and the CBRM (Cape Breton Regional Municipality) corpora, this paper explores the diachronic and synchronic variation in *b'y* use between the two communities. This paper also discusses the broader idea of multiple linguistic ownerships, and the methodological tools needed to assess multiple claims of ownership of a feature.

**Elizabeth L. Coggshall** (New York University) libby.coggshall@nyu.edu
*Glottalization in New York City English*

The glottalization of the English stops /p/, /t/, and /k/ by New Yorkers are examined, focusing on changes over time. Tokens of these stops word-medially and word-finally were coded based on their realization. I find that /t/ is glottalized far more than /p/ and /k/. All three are more likely to be glottalized word-finally. While overall rate of glottalization has not changed much over time, the rules for glottalization have. Older speakers glottalize /t/ before syllabic [l] (e.g., bottle), while syllabic [n] (e.g., Manhattan) favors glottalization of the preceding /t/ for younger speakers.

**Jennifer Cramer** (University of Kentucky) jennifer.cramer@uky.edu
*Folk perceptions and the "mixed up" language of Louisville*

This study examines folk perceptions about dialects in Louisville, Kentucky, a city located on the Midland/Southern dialect border. This study aims to discover where Louisvillians see themselves as belonging in the linguistic landscape of the United States, examining their hand-drawn mental maps, the labels they employ, and their ideologies about the different categories they perceive. Results indicate that participants vary on their regional placement of Louisville, with responses mostly split between a Southern or Midwestern regional label. These results suggest that the border is real for Louisvillians, and their understanding of regional identity is informed by their recognition of it.

**Paul De Decker** (Memorial University of Newfoundland) pauldd@mun.ca
*Organizational identity and phonetic variation in the workplace*

The role of a workplace identity among employees is examined as a constraint on phonetic variation. Interdental fricatives are variably realized as stops and have been argued to serve as salient markers of local identity among individuals (e.g. Clarke 2010, Childs et al. 2009). To determine if similar sociolinguistic constraints operate within structured institutions, data were collected from coffee shop employees at both chains, like Starbucks and Tim Hortons, and independently owned coffee houses. Results focus on organizational identity as involving linguistic enregisterment and marketplace pressures.

**David Durian** (The Ohio State University) ddurian@ling.ohio-state.edu
*The impact of the Canadian Shift on /aw/-fronting in Columbus, OH*

Recent studies of Columbus have found Canadian Shift and the back vowel parallel shift among post-1960 born speakers (Durian, 2008; 2009). We explore the interaction of the retraction of the low vowels involved in Canadian Shift and /aw/-fronting among 68 speakers born 1896-1990. Although pre-1965 born speakers show a strong /aw/-fronting trend, post-1975 born speakers show a strong */aw/-backing* trend. Among these speakers, those who lead in use of Canadian Shift features, particularly /ae/-retraction, tend to be the strongest /aw/-backers. We suggest /aw/-backing develops to prevent the "collision" of the /ae/ and /aw/ classes as /ae/ retracts.

Durian, David. 2008. A new perspective on vowel variation throughout the 20th Century in Columbus, OH. Paper presented at NWAV 37, Houston, TX.

Durian, David. 2009. Purely a chain shift?: An exploration of the "Canadian Shift" in the US Midland. Paper presented at NWAV 38, Ottawa, Canada.

Durian, David. 2011. A new perspective on vowel variation throughout the 20th Century in Columbus, OH. Doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University.

**Ralph Fasold** (Georgetown University, emeritus) fasoldr@comcast.net
*Do it be* be$_3$ *in Ebonics?*

When the chorus in Dirty Money's 'Hello Good Morning' raps: "And everybody know who the truth be", is *be* the familiar Ebonics habitual *be$_2$* or the "equative copula" *be$_3$* proposed by Alim (2001, 2004)? *Be$_3$* is used in hip hop lyrics—and elesewhere in Ebonics—in predicate nominal constructions, and is distinct from the inflectable *be$_1$*, which Ebonics shares with English, and uninflected *be$_2$*, which is unique to Ebonics. An examination of the lyrics of 100 popular hip hop songs indicates that uninflected *be* in predicate nominal constructions is interpretable as *be$_2$*, with a few cases open to challenge.

**Michael Friesner** (Université du Québec à Montréal) Friesner.Michael@uqam.ca
*Assessing the dialectological status of Southeast Florida*

Although Labov, Ash, and Boberg (2006) include Florida in the Southeast Superregion based on /ow/-fronting and partial maintenance of the *cot-caught* distinction, further work has challenged the "Southeast Superregion" status of Peninsular Florida (Doernberger and Cerny 2008; Dinkin and Friesner 2009). This paper examines vowel measurements and a pilot questionnaire from speakers from the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area. Results show that these speakers generally exhibit several Southeastern features. Despite the influx of Northeasterners to the area, the majority of the Southeastern features leave traces even in the most Northern-influenced speakers, suggesting that Southeast Florida is dialectologically a part of the Southeast.

**Matt Hunt Gardner** (University of Toronto) matt.gardner@utoronto.ca
**Rebecca Childs** (Carolina Coastal University) rchilds@coastal.edu
*Motivated to Move: Traditional and supra-local variants and the Canadian Shift*

The Canadian Shift, the retraction/lowering of the front lax vowels in Canadian English, is argued to be triggered by the low-back vowel merger in the Canadian vowel system. The shift has only recently been reported as incipient in Atlantic Canada – despite variable low-back merging in the region. We present a comparative sociophonetic investigation of the adoption of the Canadian Shift in two Atlantic Canadian communities (Sydney, Nova Scotia and Petty Harbour, Newfoundland). We suggest that while an apparent Canadian Shift pattern occurs, the lack of a complete low-back merger and subsequent complete shift indicates socially-motivated rather than purely phonologically-motivated change.

**Jack Grieve** (University of Leuven) Jack.Grieve@arts.kuleuven.be
*A dialect survey of grammatical variation in written Standard American English*

This paper presents the results of a dialect survey of grammatical variation in written American English. This is the first American dialect survey to focus on either grammatical variation or written English. The values of 45 grammatical variables were measured across a 25 million word corpus of letters to the editor representing the language of over 100,000 authors from 200 cities from across the United States. Based on a spatial analysis, numerous variables were found to exhibit significant regional patterns. The variables were then subjected to a multivariate analysis in order to identify common regional patterns and dialect regions.

**Peter J. Grund** (University of Kansas) pjgrund@ku.edu
*"Know thy text": Textual history and linguistic evidence in the witness depositions from the Salem witch trials*

In studies of the history of English, researchers normally rely on modern editions of texts that originally circulated in manuscript. However, researchers are becoming increasingly aware of problems with such editions. This paper discusses a neglected issue: the history of a text. Using witness depositions from the Salem witch trials in 1692, I demonstrate that factors often obscured in edited texts, such as the identity of the scribe and subsequent copying of the text, can provide explanations for language patterns. I argue that, as linguists, we need to pursue a new kind of edition that pays attention to textual history.

**Lauren Hall-Lew** (University of Edinburgh) Lauren.Hall-Lew@ed.ac.uk
*L-vocalization among Asian Americans in San Francisco, California*

This talk presents evidence for the vocalization of /l/ among European and Chinese Americans in San Francisco, California. The results of a multi-coder perceptual rating task show that English-dominant San Franciscans of Chinese heritage are more likely to vocalize /l/ than those of European heritage. Rates correlate strongly with the age at which the speaker acquired English dominance. This suggests that vocalization is a substrate feature from Chinese and the English of L2 speakers. The presence of a substrate feature in the English of 2nd+ immigrant generations can be understood given the socio-cultural and historical context of San Francisco.

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*Signing space in black and white: A cross-generational study*

We test claims that Black signers use a larger signing space than White signers. Analysis of 2,250 signs reveals that variation in the size of the signing space is constrained by multiple factors. Thirty-eight percent of the signs extended beyond the unmarked space and Black signers used a larger space than White signers. Results for age suggest that younger white signers have converged with their Black contemporaries. Older Black signers produced more signs that extended beyond the unmarked space than their White counterparts; young White signers produced as many signs beyond the unmarked space as Black signers of any age.

**Eden Kaiser** (University of Minnesota) kaise113@umn.edu
*Regional features of Twin Cities English: A supplement to the Atlas of North American English*

This paper investigates the acoustic features of Twin Cities vowels, and how the vowel system has changed since the Atlas of North American English (ANAE). The Twin Cities are in a unique position at the intersection of two overlapping vowel shifts: the Northern Cities Shift and the Low-Back Merger. Sociolinguistic interviews were conducted with residents of the Twin Cities whose age, SES, and educational background were similar to three of the four Twin Cities speakers in the ANAE. Results show that some previous characterizations of Twin Cities vowels are still accurate, while other features have changed.

**Tyler Kendall** (University of Oregon) tsk@uoregon.edu
**Valerie Fridland** (University of Nevada, Reno) fridland@unr.edu
*Vowel duration in regional U.S. vowel shifts*

While research has clearly pointed to the salience of formant distinctions regionally, there has been limited investigation into other phonetic cues that might also reflect regional variability. In this paper we consider the extent to which durational differences are also used in communicating sociolinguistic information. To do this, we examine vowel duration both across and within separate regions of the U.S. We discuss how duration, particularly of lax vowels, is related to the advancement of Southern and Northern shift features in the front vowel subsystem and whether such a relationship supports a physiological or grammatical explanation for duration.

**William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.** (University of Georgia) kretzsch@uga.edu
**Josh Dunn** (University of Georgia)
*Implicational scaling in Southern speech features*

Interviews in Roswell (near Atlanta) indicate that "Southern" dialect features are distributed in the 20-something generation according to the prediction of the complex systems model (Kretzschmar 2009), a highly variable, non-linear distribution. These counts also follow an implicational scale: if a speaker uses an infrequent form, she will use all of the more frequent ones as well. The most common features tabulated include strong initial stress, *pin/pen* merger, [u] fronting, and monophthongization in *buy*. Counts from young university subjects confirm the finding from younger Roswell speakers. These results hint at the cognitive organization of traditional features.
Kretzschmar, William A., Jr. 2009. *The Linguistics of Speech*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Tamara Lindner** (University of Louisiana – Lafayette) thl1479@louisiana.edu
*"What is Cajun French?" Definition of a dialect by young community members*

This study examines what young people in South Louisiana know about Cajun French, and how they relate to this historical – but disappearing – French vernacular dialect of their communities. Using data from a large-scale questionnaire study conducted in five parishes (i.e., counties) with almost 600 high school students, this presentation will examine general trends found in student responses to questions related to the value and maintenance or revitalization of Cajun French, and, in particular, will analyze write-in answers to the question "What is Cajun French?" Personal factors, particularly ethnic self-identification, will be taken into consideration in a discussion of the results.

**Stephen L. Mann** (University of South Carolina) MANNSL@mailbox.sc.edu
*Southern, working class, gay male English varieties and the Gay American English continuum*

Despite the plurality and diversity of gay communities in the U.S., insight into non-metropolitan, non-northern, and non-middle-class gay male language varieties is still limited. I provide a case study of Andrew, who has strong ties to a local gay network but expresses negative attitudes toward ways of speaking he deems "effeminate." I argue that Andrew balances gay network ties and connectedness to the working-class south through selective use of Gay American English (GAE) features alongside regional forms. Bringing speakers like Andrew under the GAE umbrella provides a more accurate picture of the diversity of U.S. gay male linguistic practices.

**Patrick-André Mather** (University of Puerto Rico)
*Phonological variation in the English of Puerto Ricans in New York City*

This is a sociolinguistic study on the acquisition of the phonology of NYC English by 10 Puerto Rican immigrants aged 19 to 50. The study focuses on two aspects of the linguistic behavior of Puerto Rican immigrants in NYC: (1) The acquisition of New York variants of phonological variables, such short /a/, and long /o/ and (2) The attitudes of these informants toward the New York realization of these phonological variables versus standard North American English. Results show that Puerto Ricans have acquired only some features of NYC English, e.g., raising of long /o/, but not the 'short /a/ split'.

**Dennis R. Preston** (Oklahoma State University) preston@msu.edu
*Linguistic Insecurity 40 years later*

An Index of Linguistic Insecurity was calculated for New York City in 1966; 20 years later a similar study found Winnipeg Canadians more secure than New Yorkers. 20 years later, undergraduates at a Michigan university were given comparable tasks. The Michiganders, who think local English is unparalleled in correctness, are as insecure as New Yorkers. This suggests a distinction between regional or group (in)security and personal (in)security. Details of such studies are also discussed: the status of the items (stereotypes or indicators), specific phonological facts (vowel versus consonant variation, segment or syllable deletion), and surrounding language ideologies.

**Jennifer Renn** (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) jennifer.renn@unc.edu
*Patterns of shift: Longitudinal trajectories of style shifting among African American youth*

The lack of research on early style shifting among African American English speakers has left numerous unanswered questions related to the acquisition of this ability. This paper analyzes formal and informal language samples from African American speakers at three temporal data points to compare linguistic behavior throughout elementary and middle school. Analyses suggest that while there is considerable variation in early style shifting, speakers progressively shift more over time. Investigations of the influence of five social and demographic factors indicate that while certain factors are significantly related to style shifting, the influence of others is associated with speakers' overall dialect use.

**Julie Roberts** (University of Vermont) Julie.Roberts@uvm.edu
*Individual variation and affiliation: /au/ raising in Vermont*

The current study explores variation in the reversal of raising and fronting of /au/ in a leveling dialect. Tokens from the interviews of 9 adolescents and 8 adults were analyzed. Vowel nuclei means were compared with social variables of age, sex, and affiliation score. Results revealed all social factors to be related to raising. Analyses of interview content yielded additional information. Findings: 1. For some speakers, current life choices appeared to be more related to /au/ production than upbringing; 2. For students, experience was not necessary to lowered productions, but desire for diverse contacts was useful in predicting /au/ levels.

**Jennifer Thorburn** (Memorial University of Newfoundland) jthorburn@mun.ca
*Present temporal reference in Indigenous English*

This paper investigates the variable use of verbal -*s* in non-3sg constructions, e.g., *I loves it* (Clarke 1997, Van Herk et al. 2009), in the Inuit community of Nain, Labrador, the northernmost municipality in Newfoundland and Labrador.
    Preliminary results show verbal -*s* usage at a rate of 31.5%; rates of usage in Newfoundland communities range from 5.6% (Petty Harbour; Van Herk et al. 2009) to 68% (Burin region; Clarke 1997). Older speakers show similar constraints to those found in Newfoundland communities while younger speakers' use of -*s* is governed by fewer factors, suggesting the system is weakening.

**Gerard Van Herk** (Memorial University of Newfoundland) gvanherk@mun.ca
*"You'd have dances and everything": Habitual past reference in Newfoundland English*

I examine habitual past marking (*used to go, would go*) (N=1376) in an urbanizing fishing community in Newfoundland, where more salient variables are critical to identity creation. Linguistic constraints parallel findings from elsewhere (Tagliamonte & Lawrence 2000), but with higher rates of *would*. I argue that for some variables, with no stigmatized variants, dialect distinctions may be adduced solely from differing rates of use, even when linguistic constraints match. Parallels between these findings and Quebec City English suggest that a preference for *would* may be a covert diagnostic of Irish and southern British English and their diaspora varieties.

**Lal Zimman** (University of Colorado, Boulder) zimman@Colorado.edu
*On the homogeneity of heteronormative masculinity: Explaining straight-sounding speech*

One of the biggest problems facing linguists who study sexual orientation and the voice is the contradictions across the findings of various studies in this area. Drawing both on prior work and on my own research with a group of 15 men, I argue that this problem can be resolved by turning the usual question on its head and asking not what makes speakers sound gay, but what makes them sound straight. Not only does this possibility provide a means for reconciling conflicting empirical results, but also illuminates the relationship between sociolinguistic perception and social ideologies about gender and sexuality.