

Gregory Guy (New York University) – ADS Luncheon talk Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016

*Flight from New York: current developments in New York City English*

Many features that long characterized NYC English are receding in contemporary speech. Vocalized (r), which in Labov 1964 was nearly categorical in casual style, is now rare for most New Yorkers. The NYC short-a pattern, with tensing before voiceless fricatives, voiced stops, and front nasals, is giving way to a nasal system. Raised BOUGHT is lowering. These developments likely reflect the city's changing demography. In today's population, half speak a language other than English at home, and one-quarter are African American. Hence, New York-native whites who were the traditional speakers of NYCE are now less than one-quarter of the city's population.

E

**Sarah Bellavance** (University of Vermont)

**Julie Roberts** (University of Vermont)

*/t/ Variation in Rural Vermont Families*

Adding to the previous community-wide findings of glottalization in Vermont (Roberts 2006), this study examined intra-familial and intra-peer patterns among 15 speakers with regard to allophones of /t/, particularly glottal stop replacement, in both word-medial and final positions. Significant differences were found for word position, preceding segment, following segment, and grammatical status, as well as age, family, and gender. A qualitative analysis of the data revealed mixed results. However, higher glottal stop rates among fourth graders give rise to questions as to the nature of glottalization in pre-adolescent children as well as to the current and future Vermont dialect.

K

**Justin Bland** (Virginia Tech)

**Matthias Raess** (Ball State University)

**Kenneth Baclawski Jr** (University of California, Berkeley)

*Because formality: The conjunction-noun construction in online text corpora*

We examine the *because-noun* construction (WOTY 2013) and its productivity with other conjunctions, using online text corpora. The corpora include Twitter (2012-2015), the Reddit Corpus (2007-2015), and Wikipedia articles (2015), giving a range of formality. We tagged data for part of speech using the CMU tagger and wrote a Python script to find conjunctions followed by noun phrases then punctuation. Between the three corpora, we analysed upwards of 130 million tokens. Results give a detailed picture of the diachronic emergence of *because-noun* and suggest that a broader *conjunction-noun* construction exists, but is limited to Twitter, the most informal register studied.

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**Charles Boberg** (McGill University)

*Because formality: The conjunction-noun construction in online text corpora*

This paper asks whether collaboration with a popular newspaper can be an effective means of collecting data on dialect variation and whether the resulting data are comparable with those gathered by more traditional dialectological methods. These questions are examined with a pair of surveys carried out in 2014 by Metro News in collaboration with the author in cities across English-speaking Canada. The resulting data, comprising thousands of responses, reveal remarkable convergence with previous research, displaying alternation between British and American lexical choices and regional variation in North American lexical choices across Canada. Popular media can therefore be valuable research partners.

23

**David Bowie** (University of Alaska Anchorage)*Early Development of the Third Dialect Shift in Alaska*

This study analyzes the speech of representatives of the first generations of English speakers born in Utah to trace the history of the development of the Third Dialect Shift there. Measurements of vowel production were obtained from archival recordings for the vowels involved in the Third Dialect Shift. The earliest-born speakers show a great degree of instability with regard to the vowels of the Third Dialect Shift. There are, however, signs among that group that the Third Dialect Shift system was developing, and it clearly exists, at least partially, in its initial stages among the younger speakers.

24

**Susan Brumbaugh** (University of New Mexico)**Chris Koops** (University of New Mexico)**Frances Jones** (University of New Mexico)*English vowel variation in Northern New Mexico*

We first present results of an ongoing study of English vowel formant frequency differences in the speech of Hispanics and Anglos in the Albuquerque metropolitan area. The Hispanic speakers show a number of what appear to be Spanish substrate effects. We then go on to develop an apparent-time perspective on the history of these effects through an analysis of the speech of Spanish-English bilinguals born in the early-to-mid 20th century, where we find some evidence of all of the Chicano English features seen among the younger speakers, sometimes in a more prominent form, as well as some interesting contrasts.

19

**Salvatore Callesano** (University of Texas at Austin)**Phillip M. Carter** (Florida International University)*Using Textual Stimuli to Study Implicit Biases toward Spanish and English in Miami*

In this paper we present the results of an IAT (Greenwald, McGhee, and Schwartz, 1998) that measures implicit associations of Spanish and English in Miami. Automatic preference was tested using textual stimuli (e.g. “furniture terms”) in both languages. The experiment was programmed in Inquisit and participants (N=45) responded to stimuli by associating them with attributes (e.g. good vs. bad). Statistical analysis of the reaction times for all independent variables was conducted in R and data are reported quantitatively in terms of “D-scores.” Overall, significantly stronger automatic associations were made between English and ‘good’ than between Spanish and ‘good.’

9

**Katie Carmichael, Virginia Tech****Kara Becker, Reed College***Raised BOUGHT in New Orleans and New York City: It's not what you THOUGHT*

Prior scholarship has argued in favor of a shared history for New Orleans English (NOE) and New York City English (NYCE), which share the feature of raised BOUGHT. Analysis of BOUGHT height in both dialects revealed that BOUGHT is more raised in NYCE than in NOE, despite the fact that NYCE is undergoing a dramatic change in apparent time in the direction of lowering. Constraints on variation were not similar between NYCE and NOE, calling into question arguments about their shared history. We suggest a need for perceptual and ideological work to better understand the relationship between these two dialects.

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CANCELED

**Sandra Clarke** (Memorial University of Newfoundland)**Suzanne Power** (Memorial University of Newfoundland)*Local Dialects in the Age of Technology: Voices of Newfoundland and Labrador*

Our paper introduces a new open access online research and learning tool that documents and analyzes the rich dialect heritage of the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Unprecedented in its regional and temporal scope, *Voices* offers high quality sound recordings from speakers representing 59 largely rural NL communities, whose birthdates span over a century.

A central focus of *Voices* being knowledge mobilization for non-academic audiences, we illustrate techniques that enhance the site's user-friendliness/interactivity. We also illustrate some of its many linguistic applications, among them provision of data for the investigation of language change, including actual time-depth of certain "new" linguistic features.

26

**Matt Hunt Gardner** (University of Toronto)**Rebecca V. Roeder** (University of North Carolina Charlotte)**Becky Childs** (Carolina Coastal University)*Social-moderation of a structural sound change?: The Canadian Shift in four communities.*

Do all communities participate in macro-dialectal changes identically? This paper explores this question by examining how four distinct Canadian speech communities participate in the Canadian Shift (lowering/retracting of KIT-DRESS-TRAP). While we find cross-generational transmission and community-wide participation in the shift in our Thunder Bay and Lakefield, Ontario, data, in Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, we find young men "recycling" traditional forms and in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, we find dialectal code-switching. Our findings lead us to question the relationship between structural and social influences on the actuation and progression of the Canadian Shift, and on the homogeneity of Canadian English more generally.

25 CANCELED 12/14/15

**Jack Grieve** (Aston University)*The decline of the Northern and Midland dialect regions.*

This paper argues that the Northern and Midland dialect regions in the Eastern United States have been on the decline for the last century and will soon disappear, being replaced by Northeastern and Midwestern dialect regions. A wide variety of different data sets that represent regional linguistic variation in American English across eras, registers, and linguistic levels are analyzed and mapped to track this broad change in American dialect regions. To explain this change, a cultural theory of regional dialect variation is invoked, which claims that dialect regions mirror contemporary cultural regions.

C

**Charlie Farrington** (University of Oregon)**Jason McLarty** (University of Oregon)**Tyler Kendall** (University of Oregon)*Corpus and Sociophonetic Approaches to Possessive They in African American English*

The third person plural possessive pronoun *their* is variably realized as *they* in African American English (AAE) varieties (e.g. *it's none of they business*). Though frequently cited as a prominent feature of AAE, neither detailed variationist analysis nor sociophonetic study of the feature have been undertaken. We examine several hundred tokens of *their/they* from a new corpus of AAE from Washington, D.C. as well as provide a phonetic comparison of forms. Tokens were coded for both internal and external factors. Findings demonstrate both grammatical and phonological effects on the use of possessive pronoun type and that *they* also exhibits social class effects.

15

**Amanda Godley (University of Pittsburgh)***How Southern Identity Shapes Pre-Service Teachers' Responses to Sociolinguistic Information*

This paper examines the role regionality plays in what preservice teachers (PSTs) know about and how they respond to information about sociolinguistics and critical language pedagogies. We find that Southern PSTs employ fewer “white talk” discourse strategies than their non-Southern peers and are more willing to engage authentic dialects, although these discussions are often “colorblind” in nature. These findings suggest that greater exposure to diverse and stigmatized dialects may equip Southern PSTs with the ability to more politely talk about stigmatized dialects, even if they resist challenging white privilege in similar ways as Midwestern PSTs.

H

**Kaylynn Gunter (University of Nevada)****Ian Clayton (University of Nevada)****Valerie Fridland (University of Nevada)***LEG raising in Nevada*

Pre-velar raising has been noted in Washington State and, more marginally, Oregon along the West Coast. Here, we examine whether raising has moved into Nevada, a state where CVS features have made inroads. Results suggest that some Nevadans exhibit this pre-velar pattern, though most do not. Predominately younger female speakers raise, a pattern often heralding a feature more likely to be adopted into a community. As it is a feature in a minority of speakers at this point, it is hard to predict its future path, but it does suggest that Pacific Northwesterners are not the only LEG raisers around.

22

**J. Daniel Hasty (Coastal Carolina University)****Becky Childs (Coastal Carolina University)***Language Change and Identity in the New Appalachia*

This study investigates change in Appalachian English (AppE) through a web-based usage survey and interview data from two Appalachian communities. The survey asks respondents to report their use and observation of traditional AppE features in their area. Preliminary analysis indicates generational differences pointing towards younger speakers reclaiming some older features as they construct a new Appalachian identity. Analysis of the sociolinguistic interviews underscores this reclamation process. We extend these findings to consider the ways that a community in change can be reflected in both the actual language behaviors (interview data) and the perceived language behaviors of its members (survey data).

A

**Kirk Hazen (West Virginia University)****Emily Vandevender (West Virginia University)****Jordan Lovejoy (The Ohio State University)****Kiersten Woods (M&S Consulting)****Margery Webb (Independent Researcher)***The Sociophonetics of Z devoicing*

We ask how the sociolinguistic profile of a phonetic variable can inform us about the phonemic boundaries of its sounds. In focusing on /s/ and /z/ for English in Appalachia, we conducted a sociophonetic analysis for seven social variables and ten acoustic qualities in 1,961 tokens of word-final environments (e.g. lose [luz]) and 1,158 tokens of word-internal environments (e.g. losing [luzɪ ŋ]). For word-final environments,

there is some linguistic overlap between /s/ and /z/ but no social forces are pushing for change. We conclude that Labov's (2010) binding force results from an absence of directionally-reinforcing social pressures.

## G

**Cory Holland** (Colorado State University)

**Tara Brandenburg** (INTO CSU)

*Beyond the Front Range: The Coloradan Vowel Space*

Bisected by the Rocky Mountains, Colorado lies at the geographical transition from the Midlands to the Western dialect region. This study investigates the vowel system in Colorado and its place in the Western dialect region, as well as what, if any, variation occurs among Colorado residents, with special focus on rural vs. urban speakers, a particularly salient social division. Results show that the rural/urban cultural divide is reflected in vowel production, and that overall, Coloradans do have similar vowel systems to those occurring elsewhere in the West.

## 2

**Mary Kohn**, Kansas State University

**Carly Stithem**

*H/O/me on the range: Back vowel fronting in Kansas*

The Great Plains region has been surprisingly understudied given its position at the border of the Midland and West dialect regions. This analysis focuses on thirty interviews from three communities in Kansas to provide one of the first acoustic surveys of Great Plains English. Previous analysis of this corpus indicates rigorous retraction of the front lax vowels. This current analysis illustrates that, similar to the Midlands region, back vowels are fronting in rural as well as suburban communities. Trajectory analysis indicates that fronting occurs across the entire trajectory of the vowel as vowel trajectories remain stable.

## N

**Chris Koops** (University of New Mexico)

**Damián Wilson** (University of New Mexico)

*Perceptual dialectology of New Mexico*

We present the results of a Perceptual Dialectology (PD) survey of New Mexico that taps into both English-language and Spanish-language ideologies of language and dialect diversity. Identical surveys were produced in both languages, and participants were given the choice to respond in English or Spanish. The results are aggregated using GIS methods, creating gradient topographical images that reflect the collective spatialization of perceived speech communities. We find differences in the responses of the two groups such that, for example, Spanish-language respondents are particularly invested in ideologies of linguistic authenticity, and that they display a particularly strong concern with bilingual behavior.

## 12

**Sky Onosson** (University of Victoria)

*An acoustic-centred approach to studying variation in yod production in Victoria*

This talk focuses on the challenges faced in developing appropriate methodology to examine one sociolinguistic variable, *yod*, from an acoustic perspective, and touches on the resultant patterns of variation. The analysis centres on wordlist data from the 2012 Synchronic Corpus of Victoria English. The study has two components: (1) a combination of perceptual and acoustic analysis of a subset of the data reveals multiple significant characteristics of yod tokens, including formant trajectories over time (vs. global measures) and vowel duration; (2) acoustic analysis of the full dataset reveals these characteristics are differentially associated with social factors of age and sex.

**Jeffrey Reaser** (NC State University)

**Jessica Hatcher** (NC State University)

**Jeanne Bissonnette** (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill)

**Amanda Godley** (University of Pittsburgh)

*How Southern Identity Shapes Pre-Service Teachers' Responses to Sociolinguistic Information*

This paper examines the role regionality plays in what preservice teachers (PSTs) know about and how they respond to information about sociolinguistics and critical language pedagogies. We find that Southern PSTs employ fewer “white talk” discourse strategies than their non-Southern peers and are more willing to engage authentic dialects, although these discussions are often “colorblind” in nature. These findings suggest that greater exposure to diverse and stigmatized dialects may equip Southern PSTs with the ability to more politely talk about stigmatized dialects, even if they resist challenging white privilege in similar ways as Midwestern PSTs.

## 5

**Julie Roberts** (University of Vermont)

*How Southern Identity Shapes Pre-Service Teachers' Responses to Sociolinguistic Information*

Glottalization in Vermont appears to have a mixed character: It has the reputation of being an old, rural feature, and it is found most in contemporary adolescent speakers. The current study seeks to provide information on this apparent conundrum by asking whether this feature was a relatively recent development or a longstanding feature of a rural dialect, which, unlike Vermont vowel features, is increasing rather than leveling. Utilizing the LANE sound files (ADS, 1930s), the results suggest that the origin of this stereotype was approximately 50 years ago, and, previously, /t/ patterned in Vermont quite differently than it does today.

## P

**Elena Rodgers** (Oklahoma State University)

**Dennis Preston** (Oklahoma State University)

*Language Attitudes: Arguments and Analysis*

Stereotypical attributes of persons are clearly assigned to varieties: harsh people sound harsh, slow people think and speak slowly, etc. One approach to attitudes that differs from the usual social psychological one has developed in folk linguistics, using discourse analytic approaches to uncover unasserted as well as overtly expressed ideas. This presentation investigates Oklahoma data primarily by means of argument analysis, focusing on how presuppositions play a role. We also consider insights from rhetorical theory to formulate a more multidisciplinary model. The presentation stresses that sociolinguistics cannot be effectively done without knowledge of what linguistically naive respondents believe about language, including accounts of how they implement and reason about those beliefs.

## F

**Matthew Savage** (Michigan State University)

**Alex Mason** (Michigan State University)

**Monica Nesbitt** (Michigan State University)

**Erin Pevan** (Michigan State University)

**Suzanne Evans Wagner** (Michigan State University)

*Ignorant and annoying: Inland Northerners' attitudes towards NCS short-o*

Fronted short-/o/ is a well-known feature of the Northern Cities Shift (NCS) yet it appears to be retreating in some urban locations. We conducted an intersubject matched guise survey, with digitally manipulated tokens of short-/o/. The survey contained 27 likert-scale descriptors, which, using factor analysis, are reduced to 6 parameters. Of these parameters, participants from the Inland North region were significantly

more likely to rate the fronted short-/o/ guise as *annoying* ( $p < 0.001$ ) and *accented* ( $p < 0.05$ ) These results suggest that Inland Northerners exhibit some degree of awareness of the NCS.

28

**Joel Schneier** (North Carolina State University)

**Peter Kudenov** (North Carolina State University)

*Texting in Motion: Towards the Synchronous Study of SMS*

This study borrows from multimodal methodology of writing process research in order to synchronously study linguistic production in texting practices through two modes of data collection: 1) keystroke logging to capture mediated articulation processes; and 2) mobile video footage to observe embodied practices within a social context. Using a custom mobile texting application and a GoPro HERO camera, this study successfully demonstrates the efficacy of multimodal methodological approaches for observing linguistic practices in mobile digital media. Our findings suggest that such linguistic practices are contingent upon the social and discursive contexts, as well as affordances and constraints of the media.

20

**Arthur K. Spears** (CUNY)

*AAVE Unstressed been*

AAVE unstressed *been* (Spears 2008, Moody 2011) can contextually take past perfect or present perfect readings (ex. 1), in addition to a past tense reading. Though present perfect readings have been attested only with statives, we can assume that they do occur with actives but are typically grammatically camouflaged with –ing and have been interpreted as having undergone *have* deletion (He Ø been living here all his life). Thus, AAVE unstressed *been* strongly appears to be the source of stressed BIN and thus ties AAVE origins more closely to creoles.

(1) He been had this name all his life. ‘He has had this name all his life’

6

**Sali Tagliamonte** (University of Toronto)

**Ruth Maddeaux** (University of Toronto)

*Stability, obsolescence and innovation: North American dialects in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

We present a comparative sociolinguistic analysis of socially stratified corpora from eight communities in Ontario, Canada: Toronto and a suite of towns of varying size, distance from the urban centre, and social makeup, testing for the effects of transmission and diffusion. We target three linguistic variables from different levels of grammar. The results highlight how synchronic dialect data can expose the trends and currents in contemporary English. Furthermore, we discuss how studies of linguistic variables from different levels of grammar applied to dialect data offer important new insights into the mechanisms that constrain processes of linguistic change.

**M**

**Sali Tagliamonte** (University of Toronto)

**Katharine Pabst** (University of Buffalo)

**Students from the LSA Summer Institute**

*An awesome talk: Variation and change in adjectives of positive evaluation*

This paper examines variation among adjectives of positive evaluation in North American English, including great (22%), amazing (8.5%), wonderful (5.6%) and, awesome (5.3%); however, the collocation very good is surprisingly frequent, 23%. Historically, the adjectives in this semantic domain have been expanding incrementally in the evolution of the English (OED): wonderful, amazing, terrific are favored by

the elderly speakers and in the literary works, while the form awesome is favored only by those born in the 1980's. Age and register are the most important predictors, suggesting that the forms are tied to time period, pinpointing the actuation of linguistic change.

18

**Abbey Thomas (University of Kentucky)**

*“Go down Peerless and Turn up Paul Huff”*: Spatial Deixis Terms in Cleveland, TN

A 2012 [investigation](#) revealed that native inhabitants consistently used up and down when giving directions, but this use correlated neither with elevation nor cardinal direction. A 2015 follow-up study gathered a larger dataset, checking previous hypotheses and attending to additional variables by eliciting directions for a fixed set of routes. Qualitative and quantitative analysis [indicates](#) a pattern similar to Bennardo's (2014) findings, where up and down seem to distinguish proximity or distance with reference to the route origin. Analysis of social variables explores the feature's distribution [with](#)in the community.

**J**

**Amelia Tseng American University**

*Stylistic variation in emergent ethnolectal features: A quantitative and qualitative approach*

This study investigates stylistic variation in the low-mid vowel /ae/ in a second-generation Latino immigrant from Washington, D.C. Quantitative analysis examined topic-related /ae/ shifting; qualitative analysis addressed /ae/ realization as part of discursive identity construction, in constellation with other ethnolectal language elements (Rickford & McNair-Knox, 1994; Coupland, 2007; Podesva, 2007, 2011). Findings indicated /ae/ was stylistically available, with associated social meanings potentially related to ethnicity and locally-salient authenticity; further, sociophonetic patterns occurred in identity-salient stretches of discourse across quantitative topic boundaries, demonstrating the importance of integrated methodology and qualitative methods in adequately addressing stylistic behavior (Tseng, 2015).

4

**Janneke Van Hofwegen, Teresa Pratt and Annette D'Onofrio, Stanford**

*Retraction in the front vowel system of California's Central Valley*

The California Vowel Shift (CVS)—the retraction and lowering of TRAP, DRESS, and KIT—is theorized to be triggered by the low back merger. However, the shift's exact nature has not been consistently substantiated. This study examines 54 speakers from three cities across California's Central Valley: Redding, Merced, and Bakersfield, analyzing the entire front vowel system: FLEECE, KIT, FACE, and DRESS. Regression results reveal significant retraction, not lowering, over time for all front vowels. This raises the question of whether a lax vowel chain shift is actually occurring. Rather, the entire front boundary of the vowel space is shifting horizontally.

**1**

**Suzanne Evans Wagner (Michigan State University)**

**Alex Mason (Michigan State University)**

**Monica Nesbitt (Michigan State University)**

**Erin Pevan (Michigan State University)**

**Matthew Savage (Michigan State University)**

*Reorganization of the Northern Cities Shift in Lansing, Michigan*

We report initial findings from a study of the Northern Cities Shift (NCS) in Lansing, Michigan. As in other urban centers recently examined, the NCS appears to be undergoing re-evaluation and attrition (reversal). However, in Lansing we find two additional processes in addition to reversal: reorganization and continuation. We observe reversal of the fronting of BOT, reorganization of BAT from a raised to a continuous or nasal system, and continuation of the lowering of BET. Findings are derived from a sample of 27 speakers

7

**Cathleen Waters** (University of Leicester)*Stability amidst the change: Degree modification in a historical context*

This paper explores the fertile site of the modification of adjectives by degree adverbs (e.g. *very good*) using the newly available Hansard Corpus (Alexander & Davies 2015) of British Parliament proceedings. Using the earliest decade for which a robust selection of adjectives is available (1840-1849), a sample comprising 30 of the most commonly used adjectives in that decade was extracted from the corpus, allowing an accountable analysis (Labov 1972:72). The results show both a remarkable consistency over time in the linguistic constraints on modification and additional insight to the path of grammaticalization of *really*.

21

**Tracey L. Weldon** (The University of South Carolina)*Race, Class and Camouflaged Divergence: The case of 'BEEN' and 'read'*

While sociolinguists have long debated whether divergent AAE features in working class communities reflect increased racial segregation/isolation, the masked distinctiveness of camouflage features vis-à-vis Mainstream Standard English provides an opportunity to examine this phenomenon among less marginalized groups. In an online study testing participants' familiarity with varying levels of camouflage for remote past 'BEEN' and direct/indirect 'read', African Americans with a BA or higher chose AAE interpretations with 50%-94% accuracy, compared to their White peers, whose accuracy ranged from 2%-56%. These results remind us that, beyond segregation, linguistic divergence reflects racial identity/affiliation, even at higher levels of the socioeconomic spectrum.