2020

Editorial

Lauren Hall-Lew
Lauren.Hall-Lew@ed.ac.uk
Editorial

Lauren Hall-Lew

Welcome to the second issue of Volume 6 of Lifespans & Styles: Undergraduate Papers in Sociolinguistics. I am sorry to say that this is the antepenultimate issue of the journal. We aim to publish spring and autumn issues of Volume 7, after which we will cease publication for the foreseeable future. Any potential author who wishes to make a submission for Volume 7 is invited to do so prior to 1st March 2021. After that, all submissions should be made instead to The Journal of the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain, or any other journal that might be suitable for the topic of the paper. Any questions can be directed to me by email at the address below.

This issue includes five papers that continue the journal’s mission of showcasing excellence in undergraduate research in sociolinguistics. Three are in the spirit of the journal’s original focus on intraspeaker variation, one is a classic interspeaker analysis, and the fifth is a perception study.

This issue begins with a contribution from Edgar Yao of the University of Rochester. His analysis of “podcaster prosody” investigates variation in the use of creaky voice by journalist Sarah Koenig. Intraspeaker differences lead Yao to suggest that creaky voice may be part of Koenig’s construction of a journalistic persona. Lea Bauernfeind, from the University of Duisberg-Essen, investigates intraspeaker variation from the perspective of lifespan change, comparing Jennifer Lopez’s speech in 1999 and 2015. Bauernfeind’s analysis of three different linguistic variables shows Lopez moving towards a more standard style, with the social analysis revealing quite a number of possible reasons. Brandon Papineau from the University of Edinburgh also focuses on a singer, Scottish folk/pop artist Nina Nesbitt, this time analysing both speech and singing contexts. Papineau finds that Nesbitt produces very high rates of /t/-glottaling in speech but very low rates in singing, and also variable use of /t/-flapping according to the genre of the song. Jessica Göbel’s paper continues the analysis of /t/-glottaling in Scottish English, focusing on interspeaker variation. In this paper, she builds on Titheridge’s (2020) analysis of Esling’s (1978) interviews of Edinburgh men from different social classes. Göbel suggests a new analysis for the origins of /t/-glottaling among Edinburgh speakers. Our collection is rounded off by a paper from Christina McDermott from the University of California, Berkeley, on the perception of rhoticity. Her paper presents the results of an experiment in which participants from across the United States listened to speech from Boston, Massachusetts. These indicate a correlation between both the listener’s own production of rhoticity, and their own general exposure to nonrhotic accents, and their perception of rhoticity.

This journal is made possible by generous financial support from the PPLS Teaching and Learning Initiative Fund, our copyeditor, Dr Marion Nao, and our volunteer Editorial Board (Lily Blount, Maria Dokovova, Alexandra Hofbauer, Joel Merry, Ruairidh Purse, Anna Scrimgeour, Annika Schimpff, and Francesca Shaw), with a special welcome to our newest member, Jessica Göbel. Finally, thanks as always to the Open Journal Systems support staff at the University of Edinburgh. Here’s to the end of a difficult year and the promise of a better one in 2021.

Lauren Hall-Lew
Editor

References


Lauren.Hall-Lew@ed.ac.uk