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Editorial

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Editorial

Lauren Hall-Lew

Welcome to the second issue of the fourth volume of *Lifespans & Styles*, which features three papers that continue the journal's mission of showcasing excellence in undergraduate research in sociolinguistics.

I am pleased to open this issue with the journal's first paper on British Sign Language (BSL). Lily Blount's analysis of lexical variation in BSL is based on video data from a lexical elicitation task with 10 women from Leeds, UK. The paper describes previously undocumented variants that appear to be specific to Leeds, and also shows quantitative differences between age groups which point to an ongoing process of dialect levelling and geographical diffusion. Blount analyses these results with respect to generational differences in Deaf schooling and changes in exposure to linguistic variation through mobility and the media.

Anna Scrimgeour authors the second paper, which is a study of final t-deletion in German. She compares conversational and read speech styles in sociolinguistic interviews with 20 speakers from Southern Germany, and considers the effects of phonological environment, morphological class, and lexical frequency. The results point to some interesting similarities and differences vis-à-vis the vast literature on t-deletion in English. The strongest effect is between conversational and read speech, and there is no difference with respect to speaker age or gender.

The final paper by Iris Bakker is a longitudinal analysis of *like* variation among the Kardashian sisters based on data from their infamous reality show, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians". Among the very first panel studies of *like* that we are aware of, this paper looks at discourse, quotative, comparative, and verbal *like* for three of the sisters: Khloe, Kim, and Kourtney Kardashian. As prototypical examples of the "Valley Girl" stereotype associated with discourse and quotative *like*, the rate of use of these forms for all three speakers is actually quite low, and their variation over a 10-year time span also fairly minimal.

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