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### Editorial

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LIFESPANS & STYLES  
Undergraduate Working Papers on Intraspeaker Variation

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## Editorial

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## Editorial

Lauren Hall-Lew

This is the first issue of the second volume of *Lifespans & Styles: Undergraduate Working Papers on Intraspeaker Variation*. Thanks to the success of our first volume, as well as a new partnership with this volume's Guest Editor, Dr Laurel MacKenzie (University of Manchester), *Lifespans & Styles* received four times as many publishable contributions this year as last year. We have split these into two issues and are happy to present the first seven papers here.

As variationist sociolinguistics has its origins in the English-speaking world, there are still comparatively few studies of variation in non-English languages. I am therefore delighted to start off this issue with Yova Kementchedjheva's analysis of the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov. Kementchedjheva examines his public style-shifting between standard and nonstandard varieties of Bulgarian and shows how both styles are part of the presentation of two different, but equally politically effective, social personae: "the authoritative politician and the folksy, regular person" (Article 1 abstract). Kementchedjheva compliments her quantitative analysis with a qualitative examination of exactly when the style shifts take place, arguing that the evidence suggests that Borisov's shifts are agentive.

Julie Saigusa, Bei Qing Cham, and Hollie Barker each add exciting new data and analyses to the growing body of work on intraspeaker variation from a fine-grained, sociophonetic perspective. Saigusa's analysis of Jane Lynch's sibilant production takes an audience design approach, Cham's study of David Attenborough's t-glottaling and vowel production looks at lifespan change, and Barker's examination of Ringo Starr's rhoticity, vowels, and the /t/-to-/r/ rule looks at change across the lifespan from a second dialect acquisition perspective. Saigusa's paper is an important contribution to the field of sociophonetics because it builds directly on the growing body of work on sibilant variation with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity among gay male and transgender speakers, but in Saigusa's case she finds differences in the speech of a lesbian that depend on the sexual orientation of her interlocutor: "[r]esults show that Lynch used lower /s/ realizations (i.e., a lower spectral mean) with the lesbian host than with the non-lesbian hosts" (Article 2 abstract). Bei Qing Cham's contribution on David Attenborough is highly valuable for the fact that it draws on data from within a 60-year time span and yet finds rather little in the way of lifespan change; "changes in community use of Received Pronunciation seem to affect him little" (Article 3 abstract). This paper is an excellent example of the value of working paper journals such as this one, where it is possible to report on the *lack* of a significant effect, the existence of which is just as important to theories of lifespan change as are papers evidencing the *presence* of a significant effect. Cham pays thoughtful consideration to why a speaker such as Attenborough may be particularly *unlikely* to change. This paper pairs well with Barker's, which looks at a more extreme example of lifespan change in an individual who moved from the UK to the US, and who might be considered more likely to change his accent, namely, Ringo Starr. While Barker does find relatively more change for Ringo Starr than Cham does for David Attenborough, the change is rather modest and not always in the direction predicted.

While Laurel MacKenzie and I both structure our undergraduate courses around projects that entail the analysis of a single individual, some undergraduate students conduct fuller dissertation-level studies that look at intraspeaker variation across multiple individuals. Abigail Salvesen's and Alice Rawsthorne's contributions are both based on University of Edinburgh MA (Honours undergraduate) dissertations and examine eight speakers and five speakers, respectively. Salvesen's study capitalizes on the interesting fact that at least two different Scottish Standard English varieties can be found in Edinburgh, one closer to RP (Received Pronunciation) and one closer, phonologically, to Scots. Salvesen takes demographically similar speakers of these two varieties and analyzes their vowel production when interacting with one another in a laboratory setting, specifically investigating which speakers are more likely to converge or diverge and in what contexts. Based on her analysis of the FACE and GOAT vowels, she argues that "[t]he Anglo-SSE group showed more evidence of convergence ... than the Scots-SSE group, who generally maintained their own speech style throughout the interactions" (Article 5 abstract). Rawsthorne's paper is also an examination of accommodation and audience design among a group of young Scottish females, but in this case the speakers are from Hawick, a town in the Borders area of southern Scotland. Rawsthorne takes an explicitly bidialectal approach, where the two dialects are the Hawick variety of Scots and (Scottish) Standard English. Her analysis of one phonological, one lexical, and one morphosyntactic variable shows clear differences between speakers in terms of their likelihood to shift in general (some speakers seeming more monodialectal, others more bidialectal) and accounts for these differences with respect to social and identity factors.

The contribution by Maria Dokovova is probably the most atypical example of a study of intraspeaker variation in this issue, and its inclusion demonstrates the vast potential of future study in the field. In the same way that Christy C. Ringrose's paper from Volume 1 reminded us that studies of pet-directed speech (as well as child-, elder-, and foreigner-directed speech) fall within the scope of studies of intraspeaker variation,

Dokovova's study shows us how the process of active second language acquisition (or, in this case, third language acquisition) is also a fine example of variation within the speaker. Dokovova examines one speaker's pronunciation of a third language before and after pronunciation training. In a way, the study can be seen as a particular kind of time-related or age-related language change, where the attempt at change is highly intentional, unlike most studies of age grading or lifespan change, for example. Dokovova's study asks just how much an individual *can* change when given every motivation and opportunity to do so.

As before, this volume would not have been possible without the help of my volunteer Editorial Board members. Joining our two previous members, Victoria Dickson (University of Oxford) and Francesca Shaw (CereProc), we have four additional members who have helped us with the exponential growth in the publication: Maria Dokovova (University of Cambridge), Joel Merry (Babylangues), Ruairidh Purse (University of Edinburgh), and Abigail Salvesen (University of Edinburgh). Each member of the board took on a considerable amount of reviewing and editorial work, and I thank them for their invaluable feedback. The publication of this journal would not be possible without the indefatigable support from our copyeditor, Dr Marion Nao (Consulting Nao), and to the financial support from the *PPLS Teaching and Learning Initiative Funds 2014 and 2015*, which have continued to make it possible to employ her. Thanks also to Angela Laurins, Library Learning Services Manager (University of Edinburgh), who continues to help with the University's Open Journals platform which hosts *Lifespans & Styles*. Last but not least, I am endlessly appreciative to Laurel MacKenzie (University of Manchester), who is Volume 2's Guest Editor. When it was clear that the high number of submissions was proving challenging even at the post-review stage, Laurel graciously volunteered to read and edit half of the papers. Without her help there is no way that this issue would have been published on time.

Last year my stated hope was that future volumes would include students from outside of Edinburgh and from an international community. Roughly half of the contributions from this volume are from students at the University of Manchester, and so the first of those two goals has been realized. I hope that in the coming years we might receive submissions from outside of the United Kingdom — anyone is welcome to submit a paper if the topic is on intraspeaker variation, if the work was conducted when the author was an undergraduate (regardless of when that was), and if the instructor's input has only been at the level of assessment or supervision. Please consider submitting and encouraging your students or classmates to submit as well.

I remain very proud of the contributors to *Lifespans & Styles* and impressed at the range and quality of the topics chosen and analyses performed. The current issue is exceptionally broad in topical scope and I think there will be something of interest to everyone here. Enjoy!

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*Editor*

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