

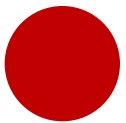
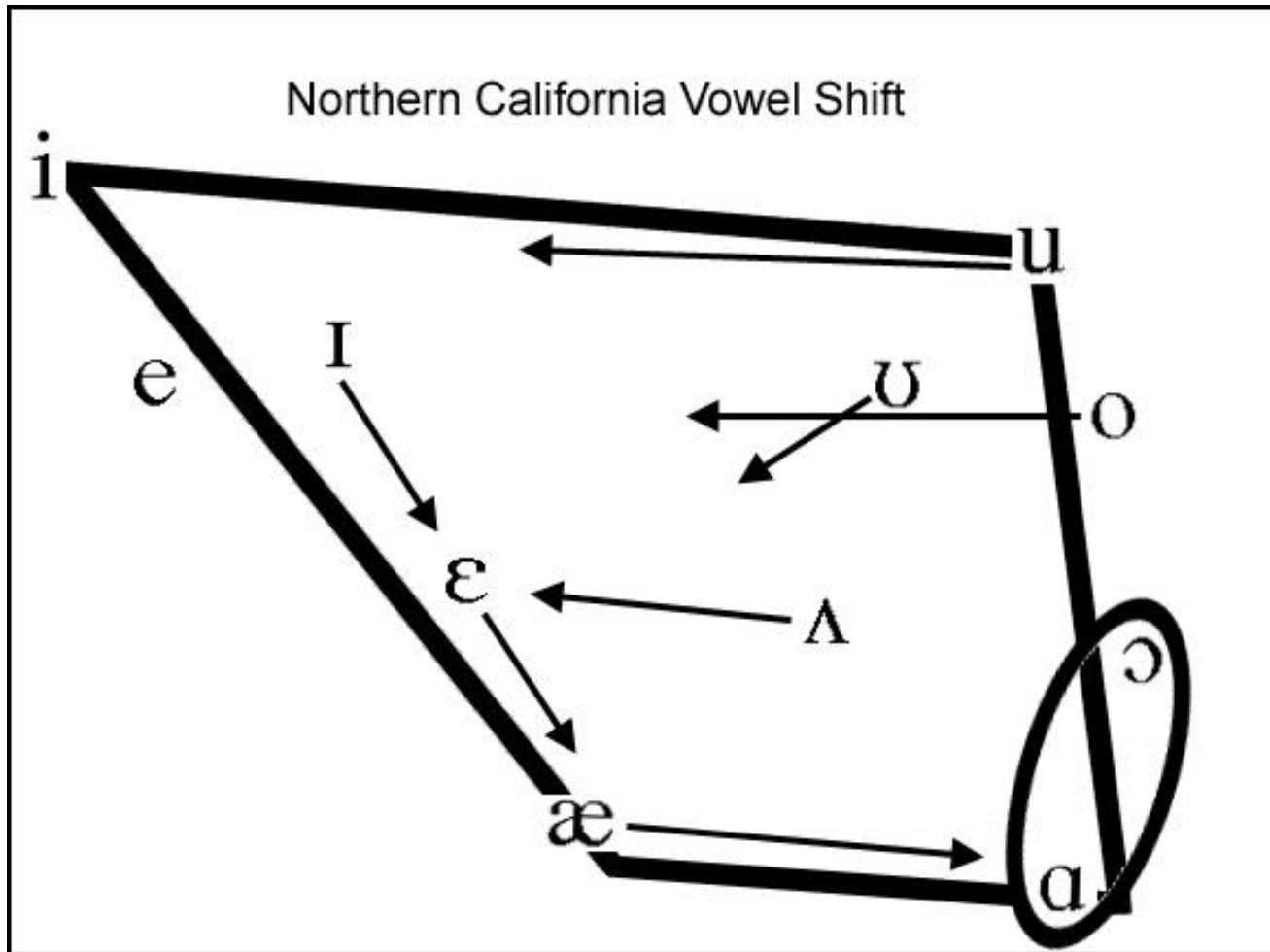
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VOWELS IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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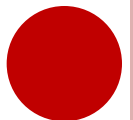
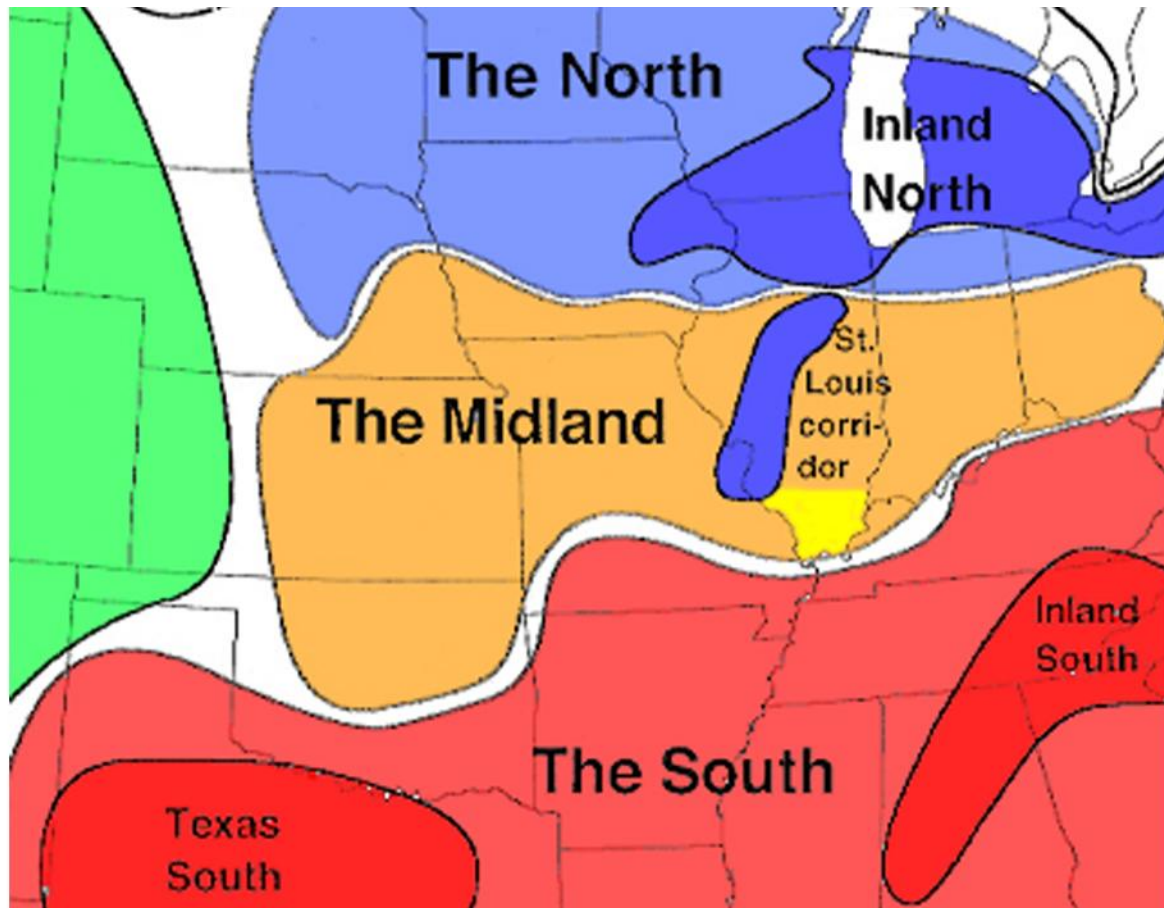
American Dialect Society Annual Meeting
at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America

8-10 January, 2009, San Francisco

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VOWEL SHIFT: PRINCIPAL FEATURES

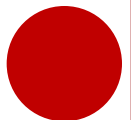


SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

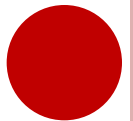
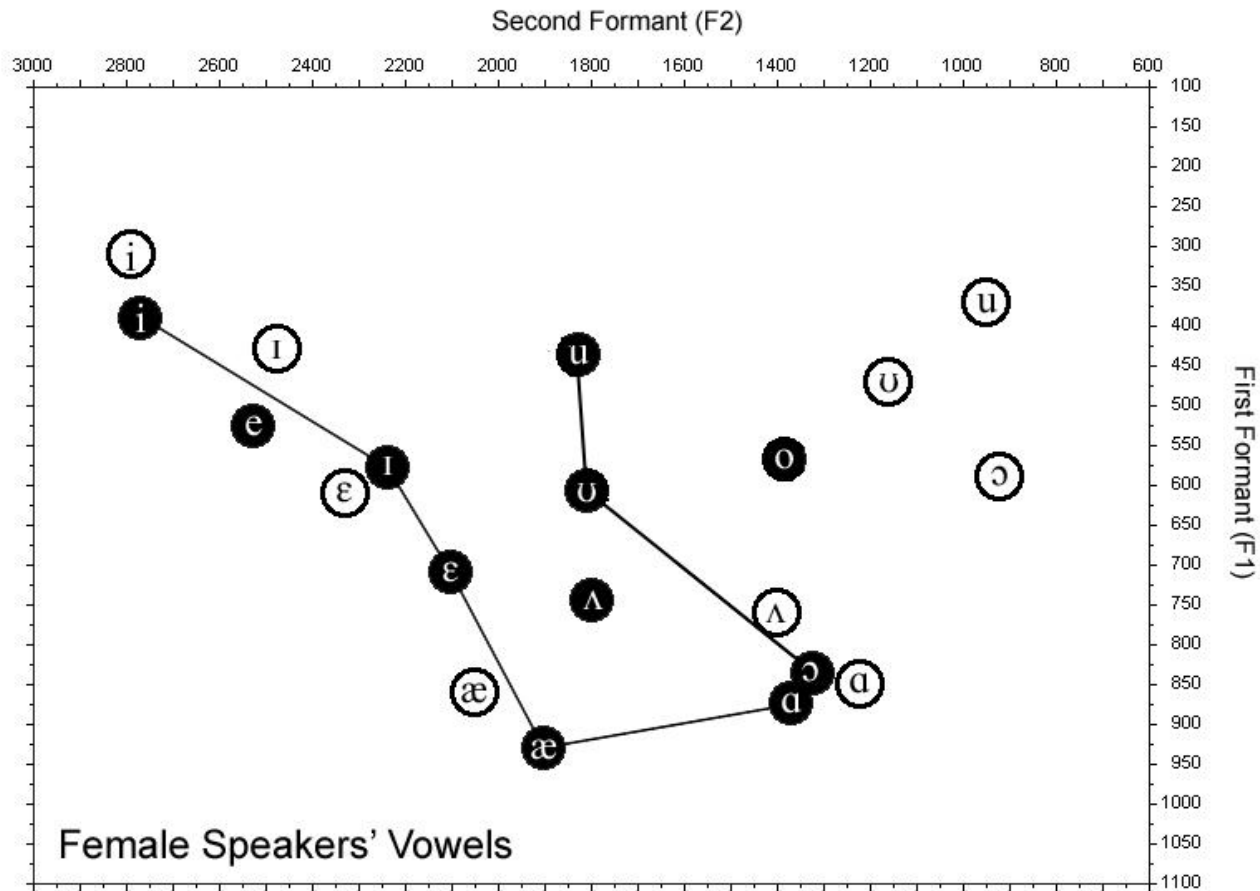


METHODOLOGY

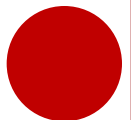
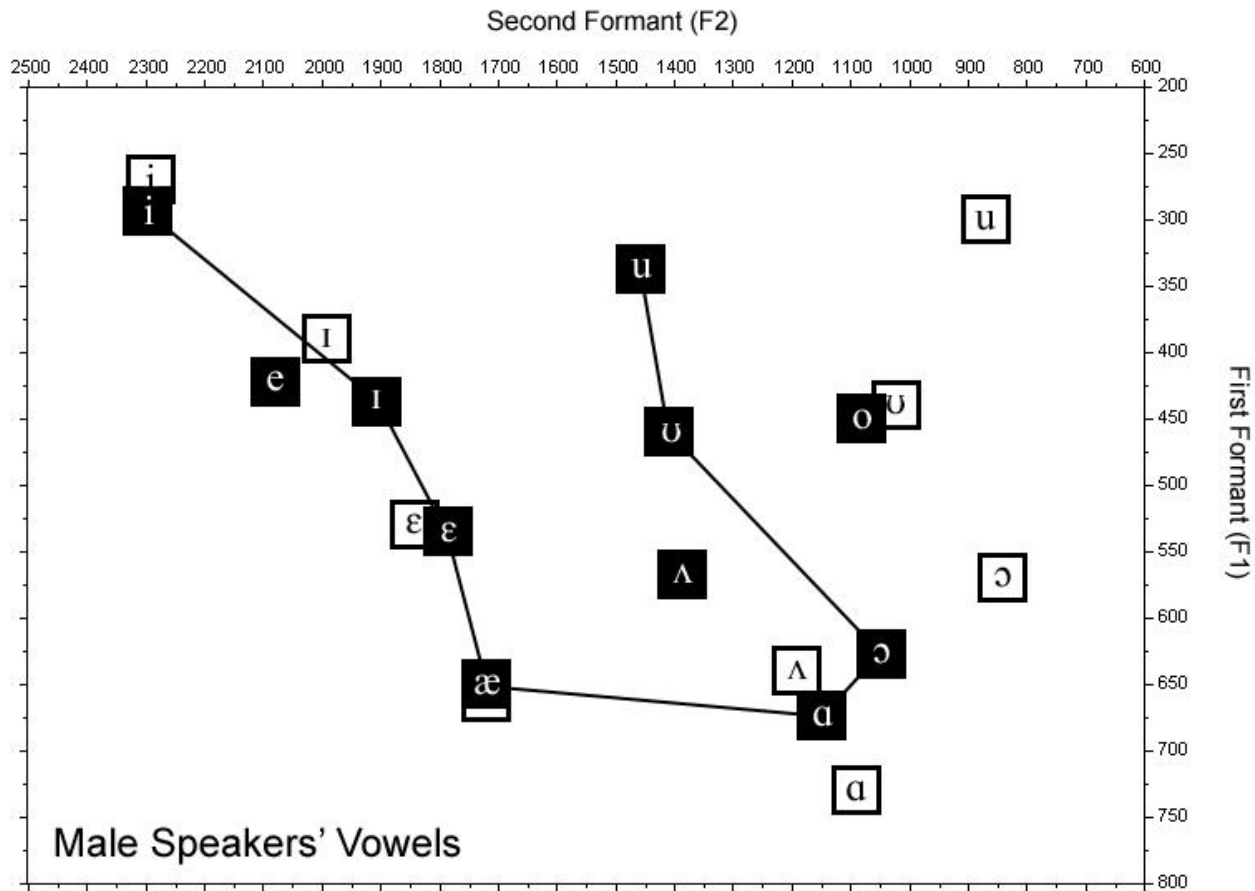
- Emerging Adult (Arnett, 2001) speakers
 - 21 males; 20 females
 - White/Caucasian, heterosexual
 - Southern Illinois “born & raised”
- Word list reading task
 - 11 stressable monophthongs
 - *b_t* and *h_d* contexts
 - 5 repetitions per vowel per contexts
(110 tokens per speaker)
- F1, F2, duration measured with Praat
 - Data normalized using a modification of Watt & Fabricius (see Bigham, 2008)



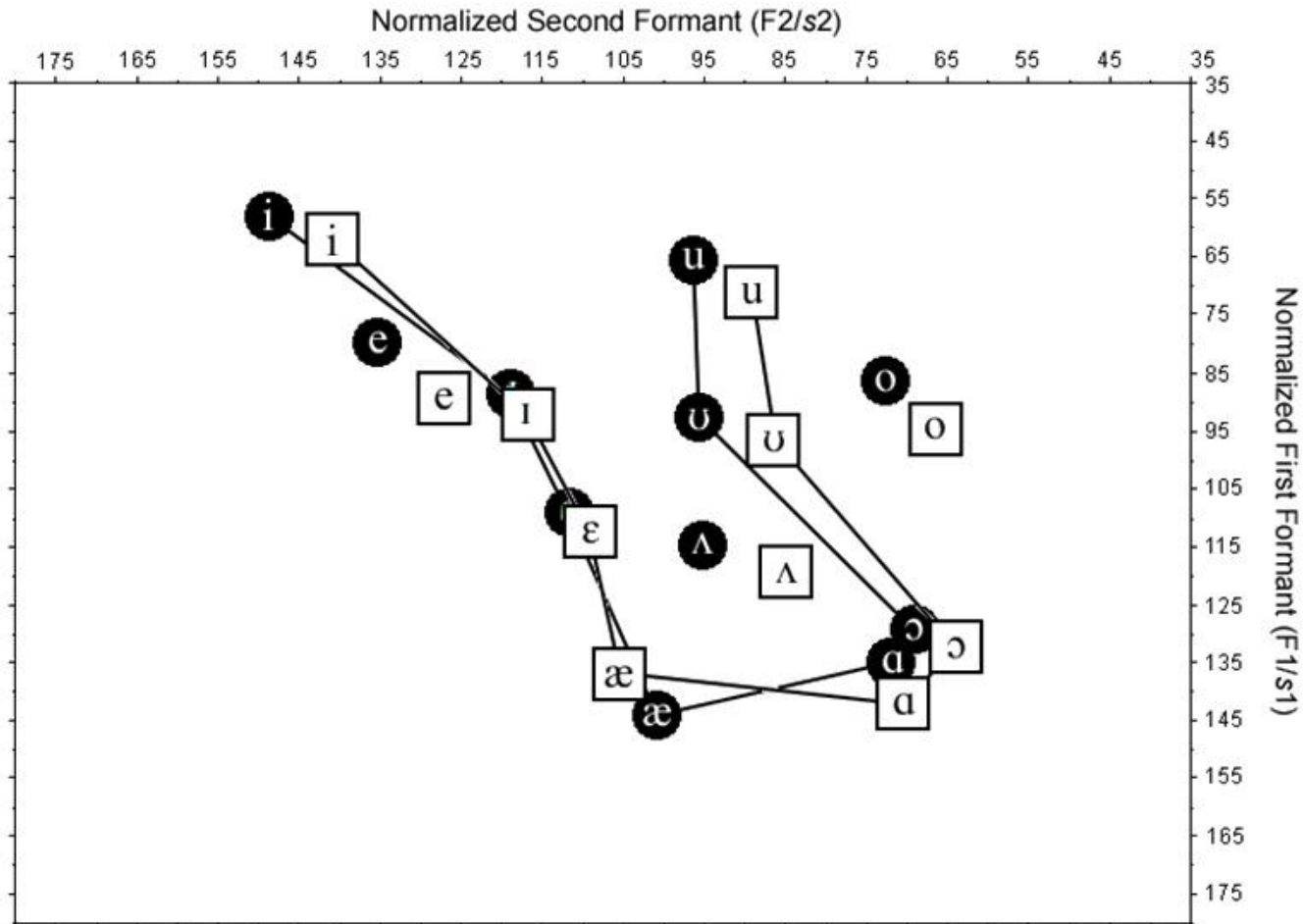
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS VOWELS: FEMALES



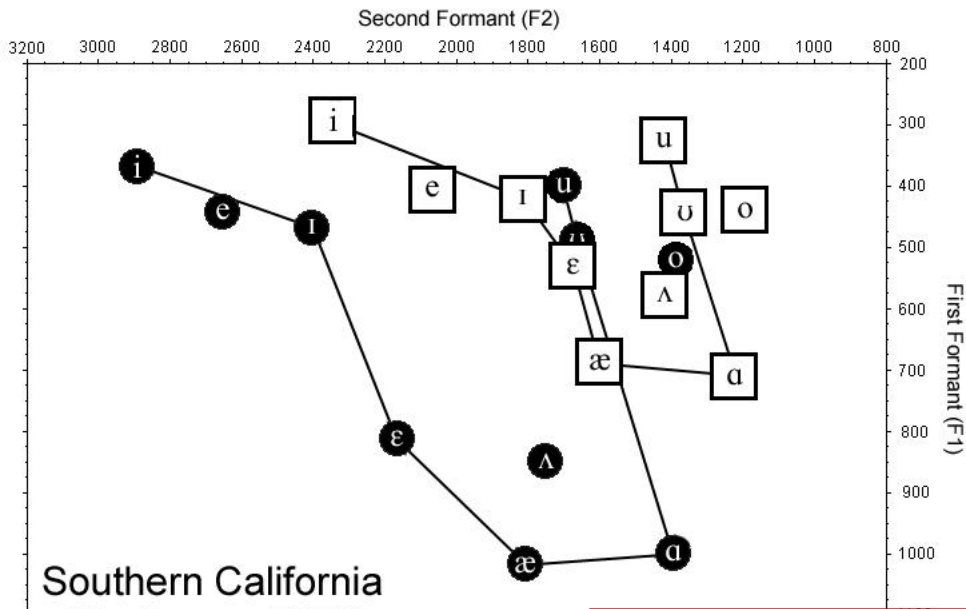
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS VOWELS: MALES



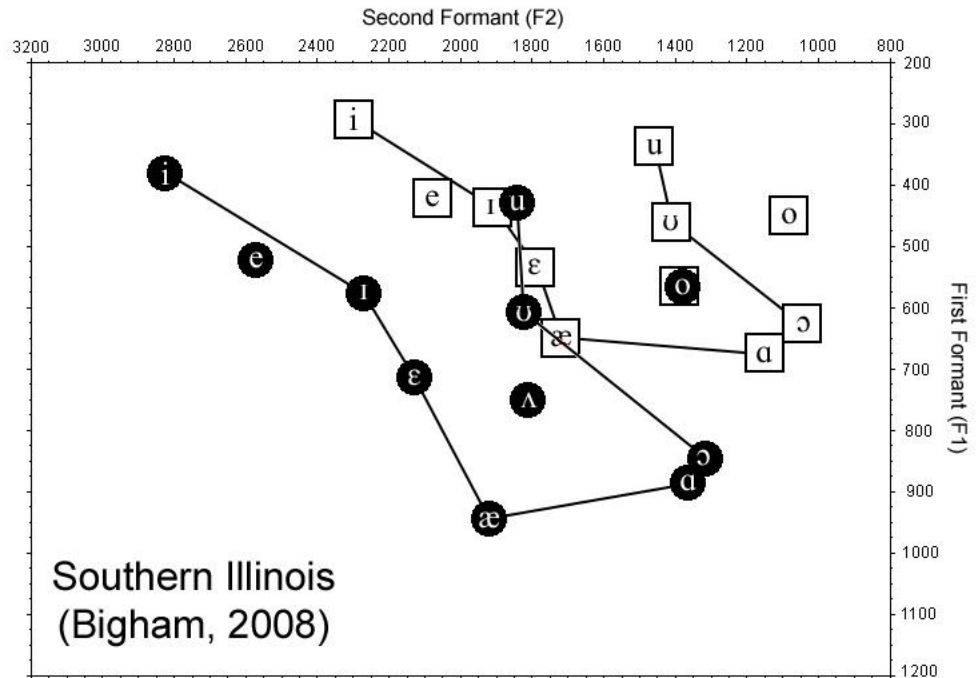
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS VOWELS: ALL SPEAKERS, NORMALIZED MEANS



“Squished” Vowel System



Southern California
(Hagiwara, 1997)

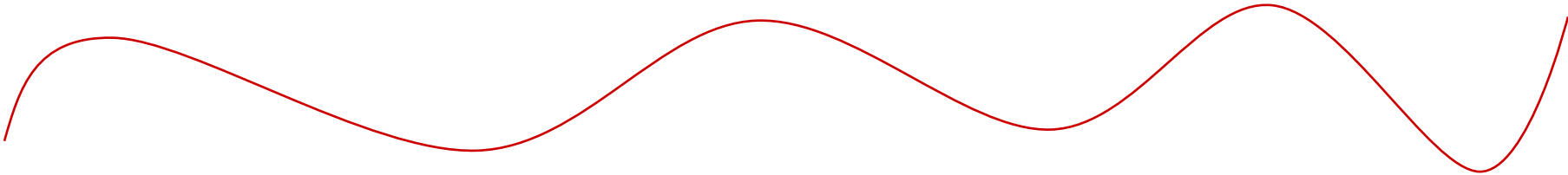


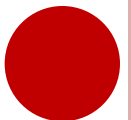
Southern Illinois
(Bigam, 2008)



So.... HOW DID CALIFORNIA VOWELS END UP IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS?

- The “Southern Illinois” vowel system shares many variants with the “Northern California” vowel system
 - Exceptions: GOAT-fronting, LOT~THOUGHT

- 
- Probably not migration or stylistic choices
 - Not a “geographically-based” vowel system
 - Convergent Evolution of the vowel space
 - Not a vowel “system” but only a statistical artifact



PROBABLY NOT...

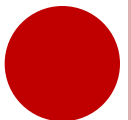
- Population migration
 - Vowel variations brought **to** Illinois **from** California
 - Vowel variations brought **from** Illinois **to** California
- “Social” style
 - “petulant drama princess” => Northern California
 - “chill; mellow” => Southern Illinois
 - speakers are not necessarily from the same “clique”



NON-GEOGRAPHICALLY BASED SYSTEM

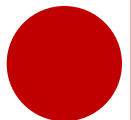
- *GEOGRAPHY* is linguistically non-agentive

- Non-geographically bound social networks
 - A new “emerging adult” dialect
 - Myspace, Facebook, Youtube, live gaming, etc.
 - Interactive, two-way communication
 - Unlike “old media”



CONVERGENT EVOLUTION

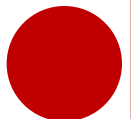
- Convergent Evolution-1: Linguistic Drift
 - Variants are related in a chain-shift
 - (1) LOT moves toward or merges with THOUGHT
 - (2) TRAP moves back / STRUT moves forward
 - (3) DRESS moves down / KIT moves down
 - Problems for GOOSE, GOAT, FOOT
- Convergent Evolution-2: Dialect Contact
 - So. Ill. = transition zone; Northern~Midland~Southern
 - Western North America = mixed settlement history
 - GOAT-fronting is specific to the “petulant drama princess”



VOWEL “SYSTEM” AS STATISTICAL ARTIFACT

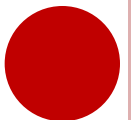
- Are vowels mathematical objects?
- What is the normal distribution of F1 and F2 for a given vowel when averaging data from different numbers of speakers, tokens, and consonantal contexts?
 - How do these and other (N)s change the outcome?

	DSB	Hagi.	PB	HGCW	CPJ
Speakers	20f/21m	9f/6m	28f/3m	48f/45m	4f/4m
Tokens	5	3	1	1	5
Contexts	2	3	1	1	1
Total (N)	200/210	81/54	28/33	48/45	20/20



SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- Southern Illinois vowels are most like California vowels, not the vowels found in the surrounding or nearby dialects. Why?
 - Geographically “free” interactive media communities
 - Convergent Evolution of the vowel system
 - Statistical artifact of the data



OUTCOME & MAJOR QUESTIONS

- The occurrence of Northern California-like variants in Southern Illinois challenges traditional models of dialect acquisition and dialect spread.
- Q: What is the effect of new media on language?
- Q: Which parts of a vowel system are linked and in what ways?
- Q: How many speakers, tokens, and contexts do we need to measure for dialect description?



THANK YOU!

Northern California Vowels in Southern Illinois

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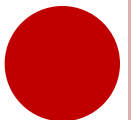
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References and handouts available by e-mail



CALI VOWELS IN SOILL

○ TRAP split:

- Female, 18,
“class” / “Anna”



- Male, 18,
“class” / “pan”



○ KIT, DRESS lowering:

- Males, 18,
“Illinoisier” / “metals”



- Female, 18,
“at *Fred’s* and talk to my *friends*”



○ FOOT fronting & lowering

- Female, 18, “very *good* about”



- Male, 18, “hood”



○ But *not* GOAT fronting:

- Female, 18, “social”



- Male, 18, “go”

