

Stylistic variation in panel studies of change in real time

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Recent studies, including Rickford and Price (2013) and Gregerson et al (to appear), show that having data on speakers' stylistic variation and working with at least three comparison points (as against two, the common norm) can make a significant difference in our interpretations of how and how much speakers have changed over time. Furthermore, the value of multiple recordings and focusing on stylistic variation extends to other areas of sociolinguistics and the study of variation and change more generally.