

The Social Stratification of French in the Parisian Region

March 9th, 2011

19:00 – 20:30

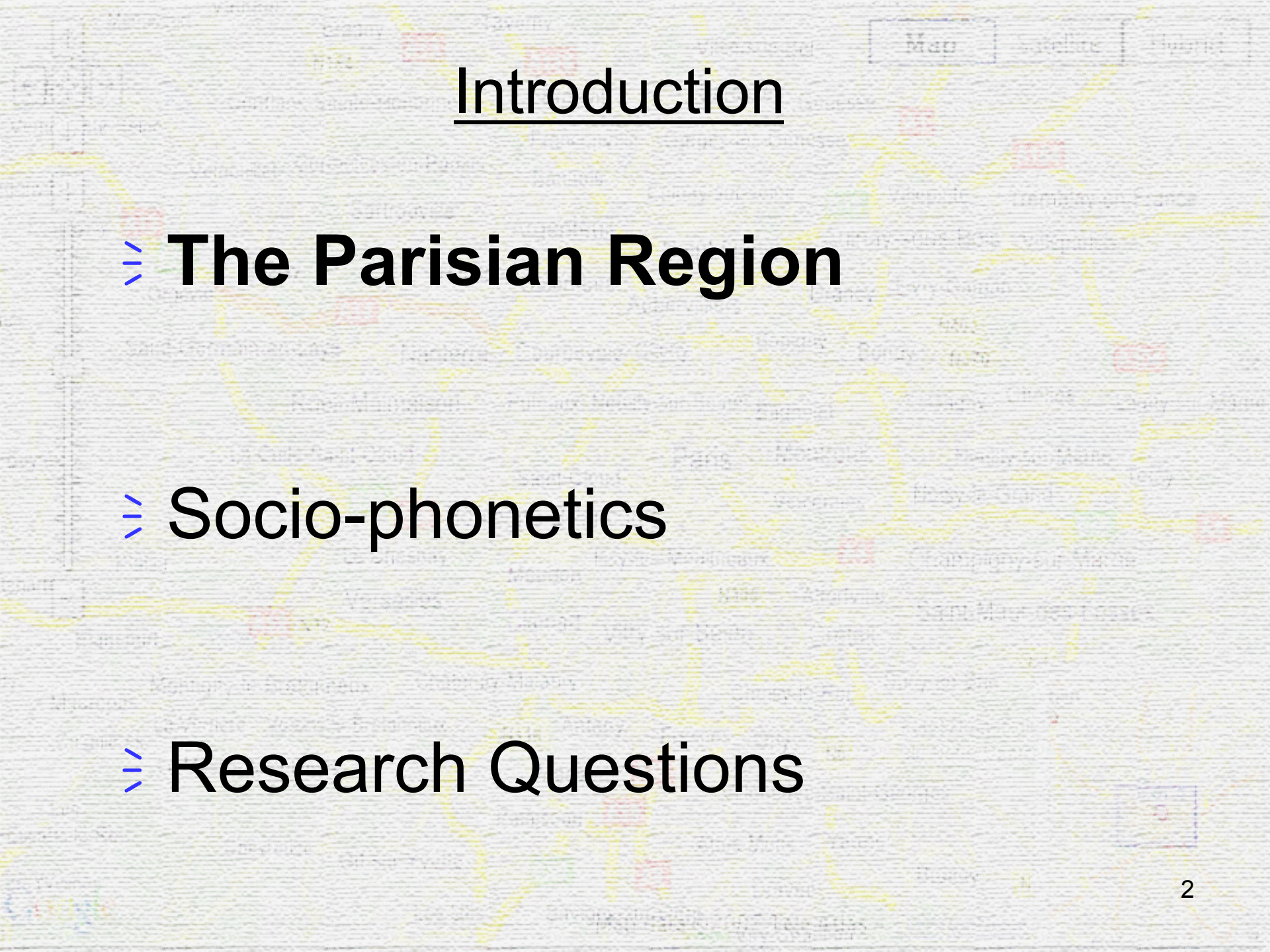
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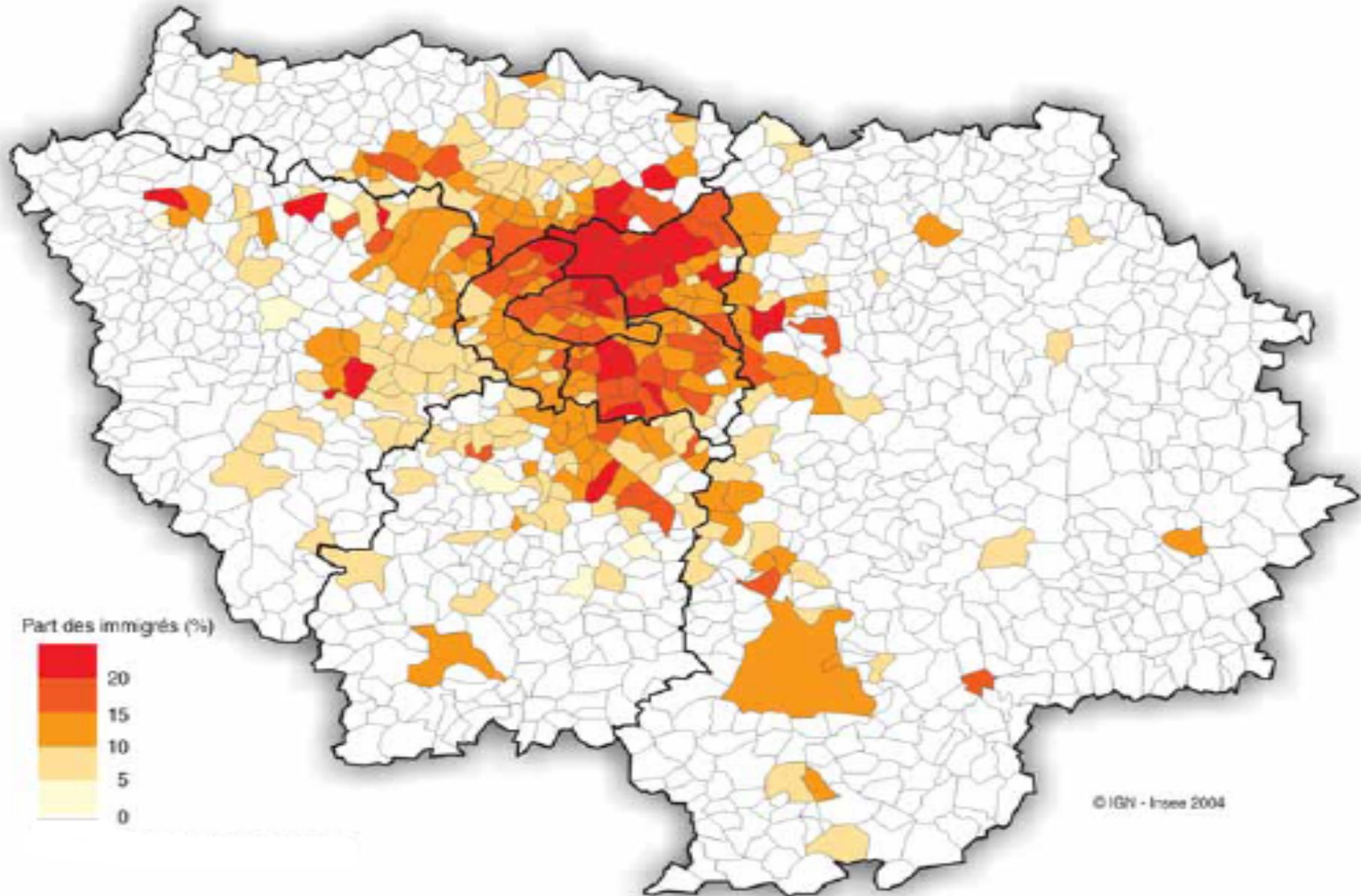
Introduction

≡ **The Parisian Region**

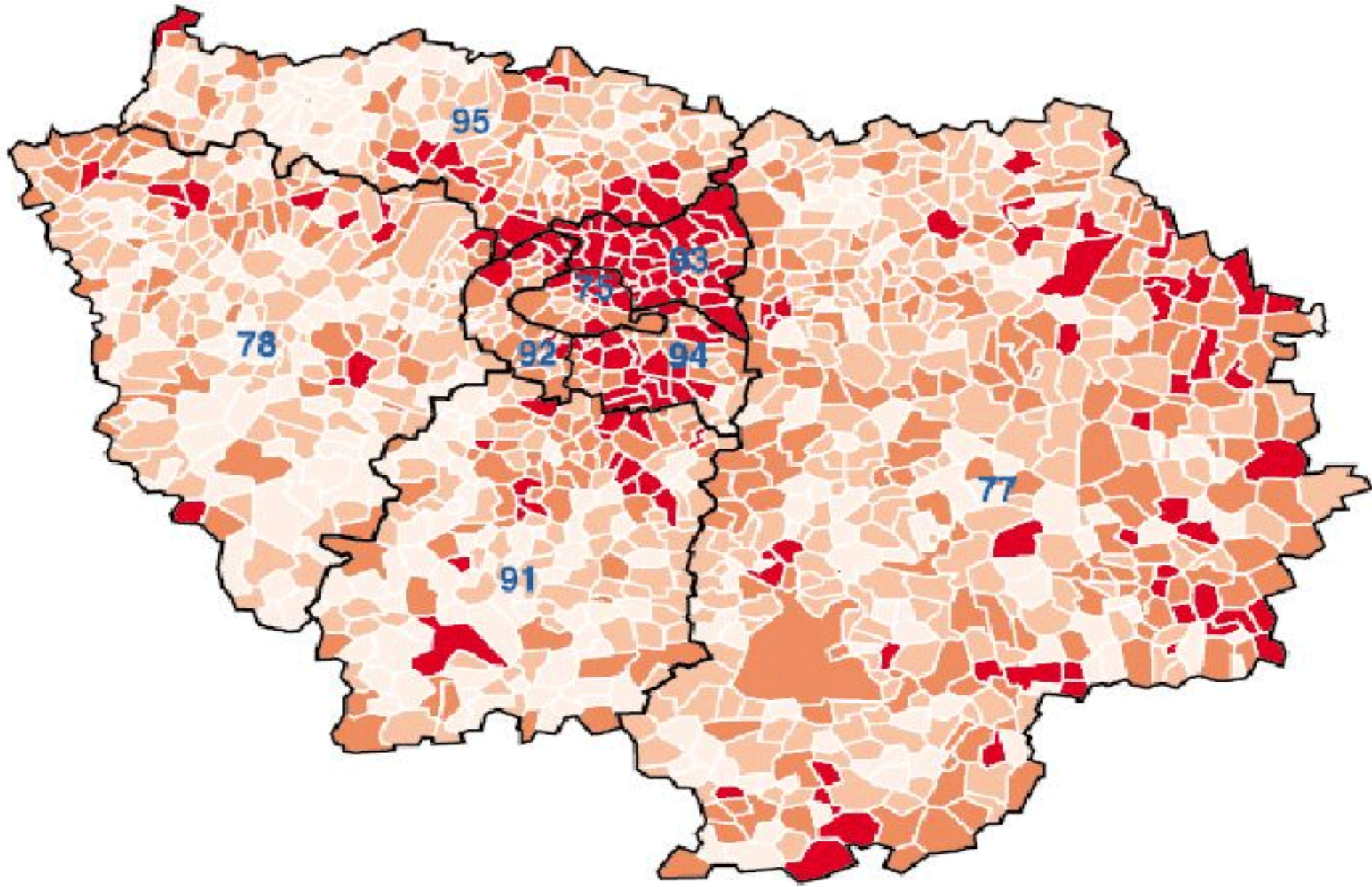
≡ **Socio-phonetics**

≡ **Research Questions**

Immigration in the Parisian Region



Poverty in the Parisian Region



SPECIAL REPORT: AIRLINES' SURPRISING BOOM

The Economist

NOVEMBER 12TH-18TH 2005

www.economist.com

Bad election night for Bush

PAGE 27

America's torture tangle

PAGE 34

Oil producers' vast surpluses

PAGES 70-77

Blair's terror defeat

PAGES 13, 59 AND 62

France's failure



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Académie française



- Le rôle
- L'histoire
- Les immortels
- La langue française
- Le dictionnaire
- Actualités
- Liens
- Contact
- Recherche
- Crédits et sources

ACTUALITÉS

L'Académie française, fondée en 1635, sous le règne du roi Louis XIII, par le cardinal de Richelieu, est une des plus anciennes institutions de la France.

Elle se compose de 40 membres élus par leurs pairs.

What is in Parisian French?

“normally just a synonym for the standard language” (Lodge, 2006, p. 5)

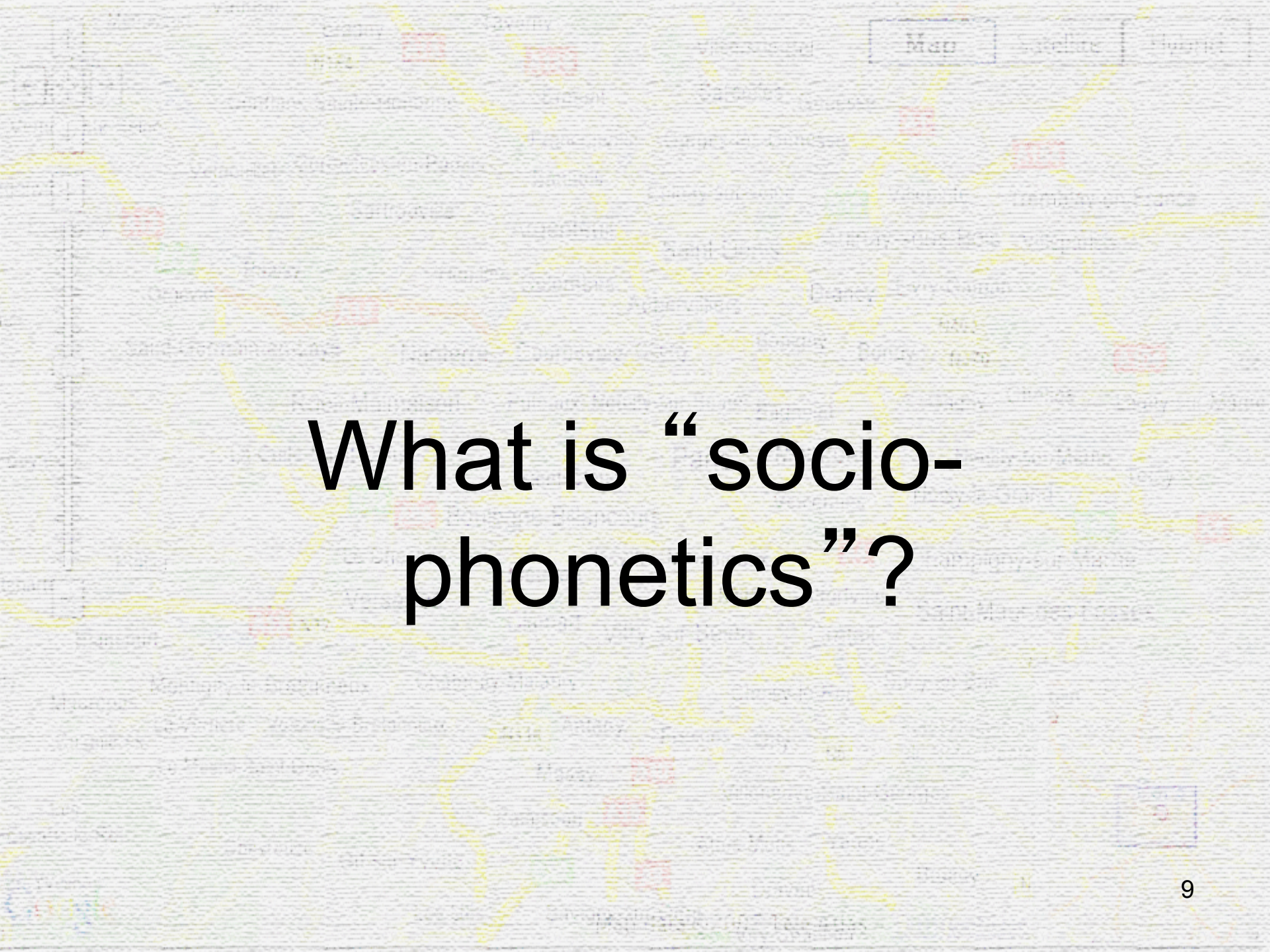
“‘sociolect’ specific to the economic and cultural conditions of a category of the population that has lost contact with the linguistic norm” (Genin, 1995, p. 5)

Introduction

≡ The Parisian Region

≡ **Socio-phonetics**

≡ Research Questions

The background is a light-colored map, possibly a street map, with several prominent yellow lines winding across it. There are also several small red rectangular boxes scattered across the map, some of which appear to be highlighting specific locations. At the top right, there are three small boxes labeled 'Map', 'Satellite', and 'Hybrid'.

**What is “socio-
phonetics”?**

The background of the slide is a map of Paris, France. The map is overlaid with several yellow and red lines and boxes, which appear to be annotations or highlights. The title 'Introduction' is centered at the top in a large, black, sans-serif font, underlined. Below the title, there are three main sections, each preceded by a blue double-line arrow symbol. The first section is 'The Parisian Region', the second is 'Socio-phonetics', and the third is 'Research Questions'. The text is in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, the number '10' is displayed in a small, black, sans-serif font.

Introduction

≡ **The Parisian Region**

≡ **Socio-phonetics**

≡ **Research Questions**

Research Questions

Do Parisians possess fine-grained mental maps of linguistic prestige within the Parisian region?

If Parisians possess such mental maps, how are those mental representations related to socio-geographic perceptions? Are attitudes towards non-prestige Parisian French universal or constrained by certain subject-specific factors?

Are listeners capable of situating socio-phonetic variation within such mental maps? What are the subject-specific variables that affect how listeners situate socio-phonetic variation geographically?



Language Attitudes Survey

Methods: Language Attitudes Survey

- Subjects told they would be helping a provincial family move to the Parisian region by evaluating potential sites for the family's relocation
- Subjects then evaluated **21 cities** in the Parisian region on dimensions of **desirability, reputation** and **linguistic correctness**.
- After this task, subjects participated in a **questionnaire**.

Methods: Language Attitudes Survey (2)

3 cities from 7 *départements* chosen:

Wealthy Cities - **Medium Cities** - **Poor Cities**

- ✓ Census statistics
- ✓ Parisian informants
- ✓ Website targeting homeowners / renters
- ✓ Pilot Study

21 Cities with Average Annual Per-Household Income and Average Price Per-Square-Meter (2004)

Wealthy Cities	Medium Cities	Poor Cities
<i>Neuilly</i> 62,646 € 8,952.43 € / m ²	<i>Nanterre</i> 14,936 € 4,157.09 € / m ²	<i>Gennevilliers</i> 12,067 € 3,168.86 € / m ²
<i>Noisy-le-Grand</i> 17,320 € 3,234.14 € / m ²	<i>Montreuil</i> 13,593 € 3,691.24 € / m ²	<i>Aubervilliers</i> 10,603 € 3,228.95 € / m ²
<i>Saint-Maur-des-Fossés</i> 26,597 € 4,513.22 € / m ²	<i>Maisons-Alfort</i> 18,904 € 4,211.51 € / m ²	<i>Ivry</i> 13,800 € 3,929.52 € / m ²
<i>Pontault-Combault</i> 18,981 € 3,508.24 € / m ²	<i>Chelles</i> 18,288 € 3,042.65 € / m ²	<i>Meaux</i> 13,533 € 2,654.56 € / m ²
<i>Saint-Germain-en-Laye</i> 30,765 € 4,765.22 € / m ²	<i>Sartrouville</i> 17,687 € 3,152.09 € / m ²	<i>Les Mureaux</i> 12,759 € 2,489.08 € / m ²
<i>Savigny-sur-Orge</i> 19,780 € 3,181.97 € / m ²	<i>Massy</i> 17,321 € 3,314.51 € / m ²	<i>Evry</i> 13,599 € 2,303.12 € / m ²
<i>Franconville</i> 18,240 € 2,939.50 € / m ²	<i>Argenteuil</i> 14,515 € 2,898.55 € / m ²	<i>Gargès-les-Gonesse</i> 10,806 € 2,327.30 € / m ²

Methods: Language Attitudes Survey (3)

Desirability

Cette commune me paraît un bon choix pour un lieu de résidence en fonction des écoles, des services et des transports.

Reputation

Cette commune me paraît un bon choix pour un lieu de résidence en fonction de sa réputation.

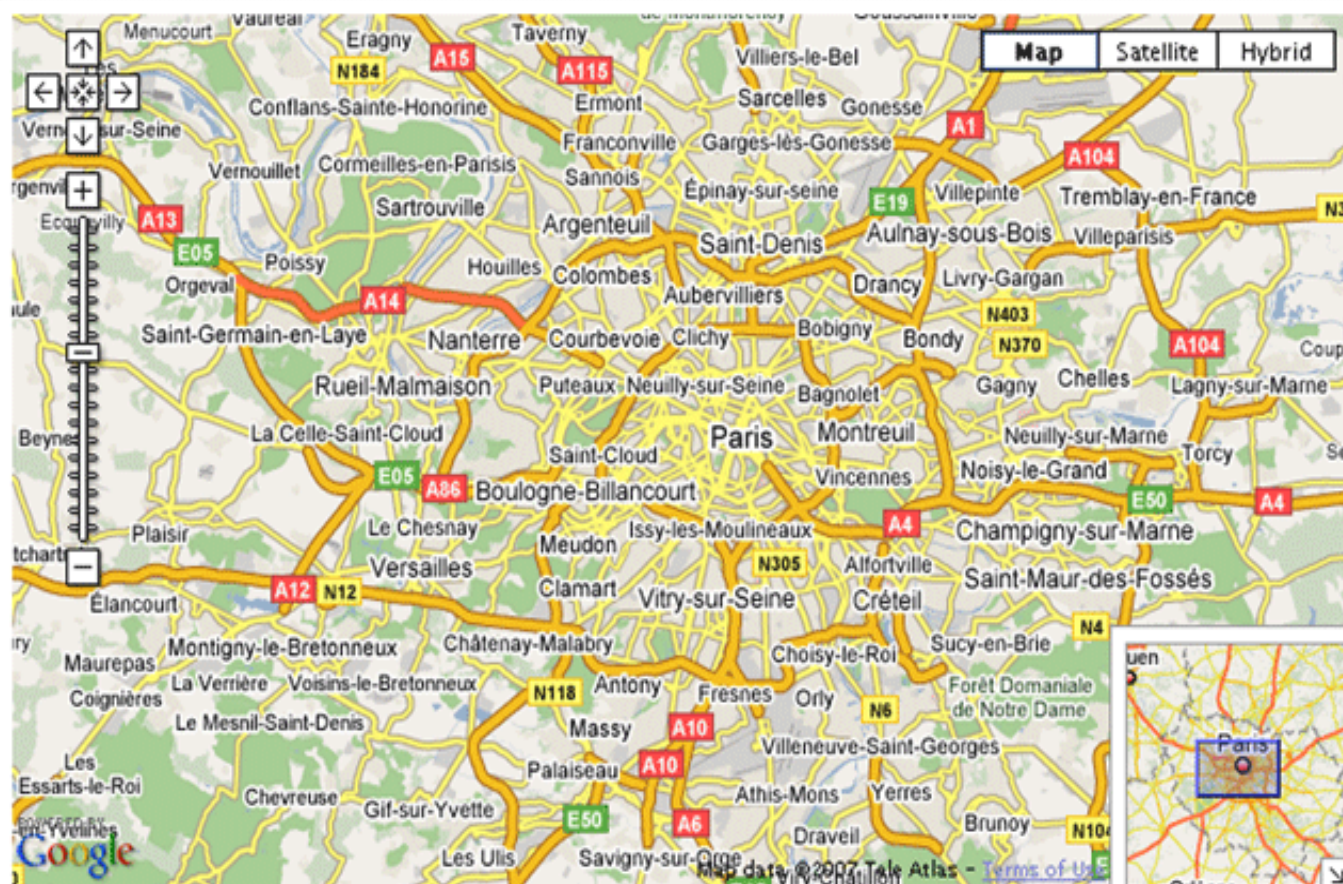
Linguistic Correctness

Dans cette commune les enfants apprendront à bien parler français.

Termes

Aide

Instructions



Cette commune me paraît un bon choix pour un lieu de résidence en fonction des écoles, des services et des transports.

Veillez sélectionner:

Cette commune me paraît un bon choix pour un lieu de résidence en fonction de sa réputation.

Veillez sélectionner:

Dans cette commune les enfants apprendront à bien parler français.

Veillez sélectionner:

Avez-vous des impressions générales à propos de cette commune pour aider vos amis?

Soumettre

Réinitialiser

Neuilly-sur-Seine

Nanterre

Montrouge

Le Raincy

Montreuil

Aubervilliers

Saint-Maur-des-Fossés

Maisons-Alfort

Ivry-sur-Seine

Pontault-Combault

Champs-sur-Marne

Meaux

Saint-Germain-en-Laye

Sartrouville

Les Mureaux

Sainte-Genviève-des-Bois

Massy

Evry

Franconville

Argenteuil

Garges-lès-Gonesse

Complété: 0 / 21

Methods: Language Attitudes Survey (4)

Questionnaire contained:

1. Socio-Demographic Information
2. Index of Socio-Economic Status
3. Additional Indices and Items
4. Scale of Anti-Immigrant Bias
5. Index of “Sociolinguistic Experience”

Methods: Language Attitudes Survey (5)

1. “Sociolinguistic Experience”

- ✓ mother language / dialect
- ✓ exposure to and use of languages / dialects / non-standard French in and outside the home

2. “Anti-Immigrant Bias”

- ✓ items adapted from scale used by social psychologists working in France
- ✓ phrased benignly as questions on social issues in France

Results: Language Attitudes Survey

- ✓ 136 subjects recruited for main study
- ✓ 20 applied the same linguistic correctness score to all 21 cities

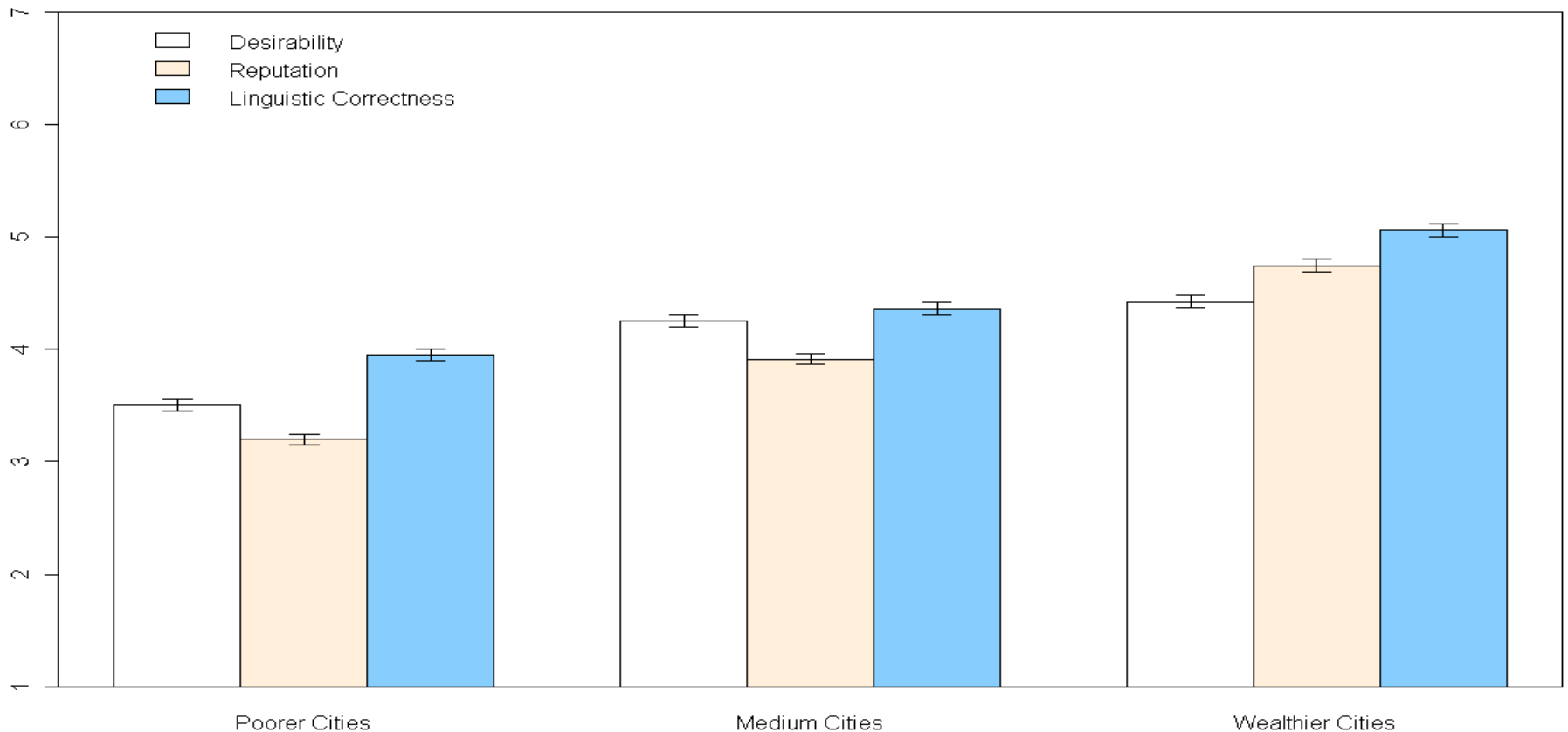
“the problem does not exist because all children have access to education and thus the chance to learn French, regardless of their ethnic or socio-cultural origin... we have no linguistic ghettos.”

“cannot learn French correctly?” – “does this mean that education in the French language is more dubious in some cities than in others?”

“as a good French citizen with the integrationist school in mind, rated the suburbs identically even if, in reality, this is surely false.”

Results: Language Attitudes Survey (2)

Aggregated Ratings on 3 Evaluative Dimensions by City Type



Results: Language Attitudes Survey (3)

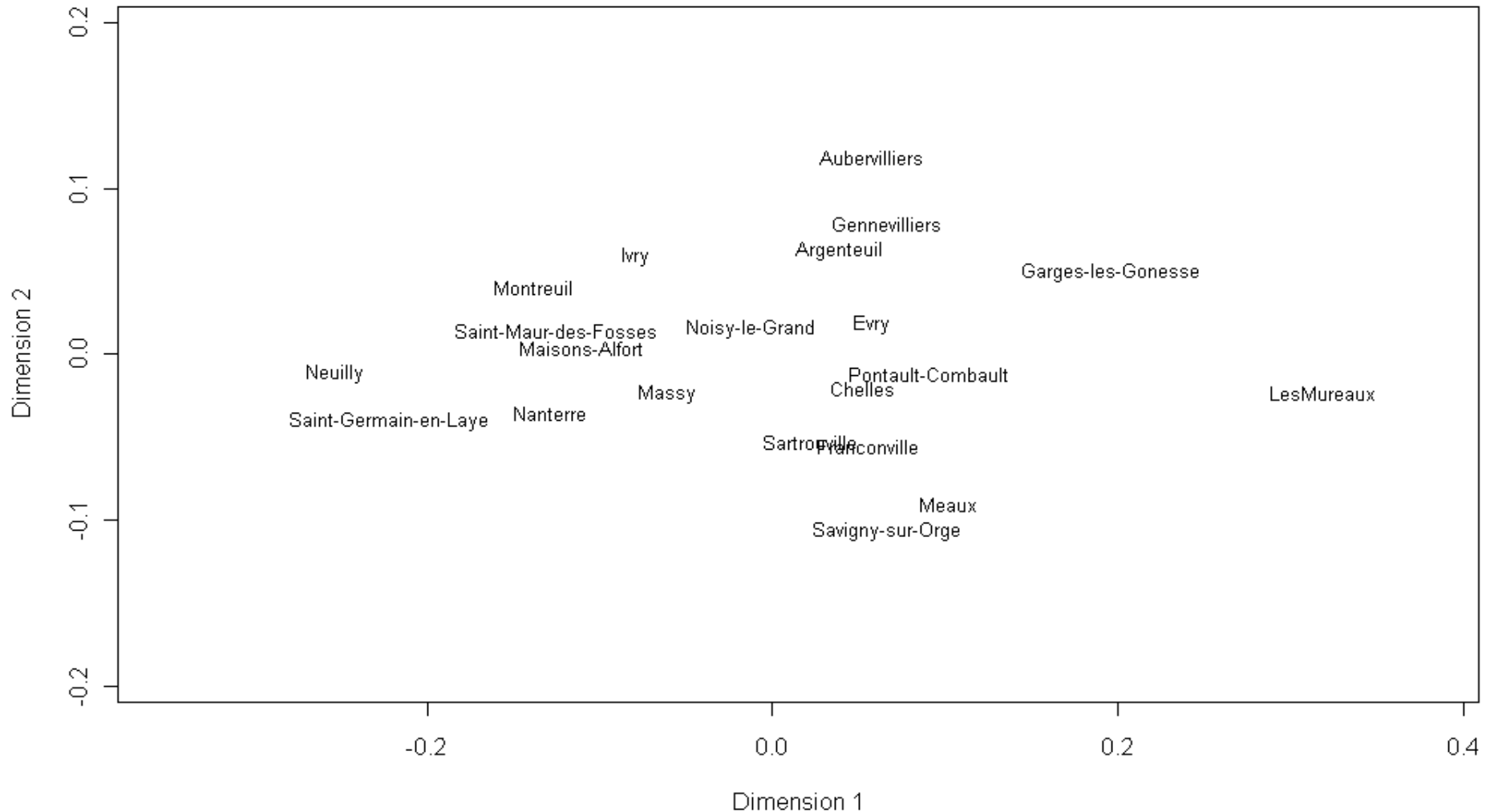
Correlations Between 3 Evaluative Dimensions Across All 21 Cities

	Desirability	Reputation	Linguistic Correctness
Desirability	1.00	$r = 0.41$ $p < .0001$	$r = 0.22$ $p < .05$
Reputation	$r = 0.41$ $p < .0001$	1.00	$r = 0.57$ $p < .0001$
Linguistic Correctness	$r = 0.22$ $p < .05$	$r = 0.57$ $p < .0001$	1.00

Results: Language Attitudes Survey (4)

Poles of Desirability Ratings

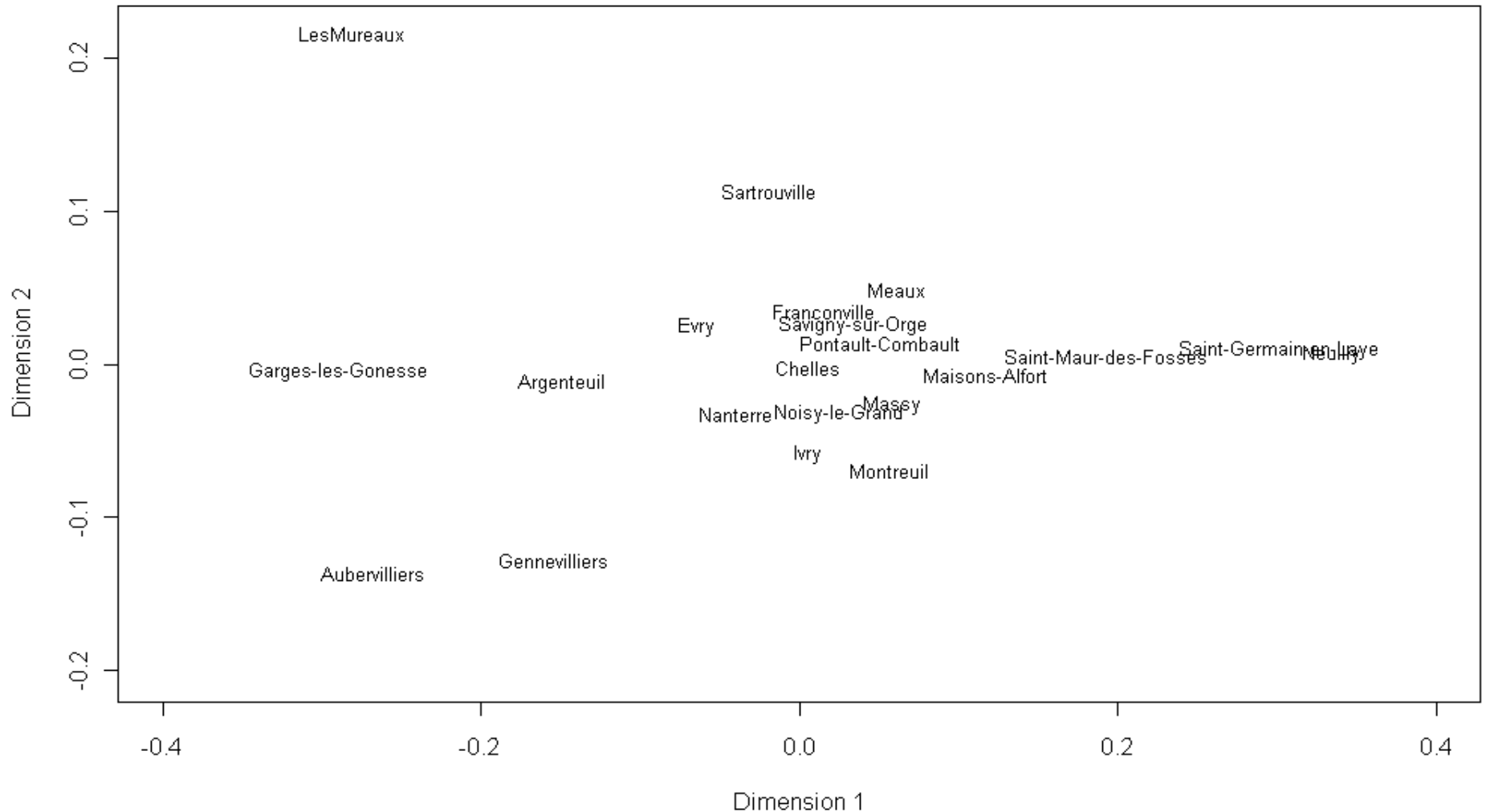
Scaling Display for Residential Desirability



Results: Language Attitudes Survey (5)

Poles of Reputation Ratings

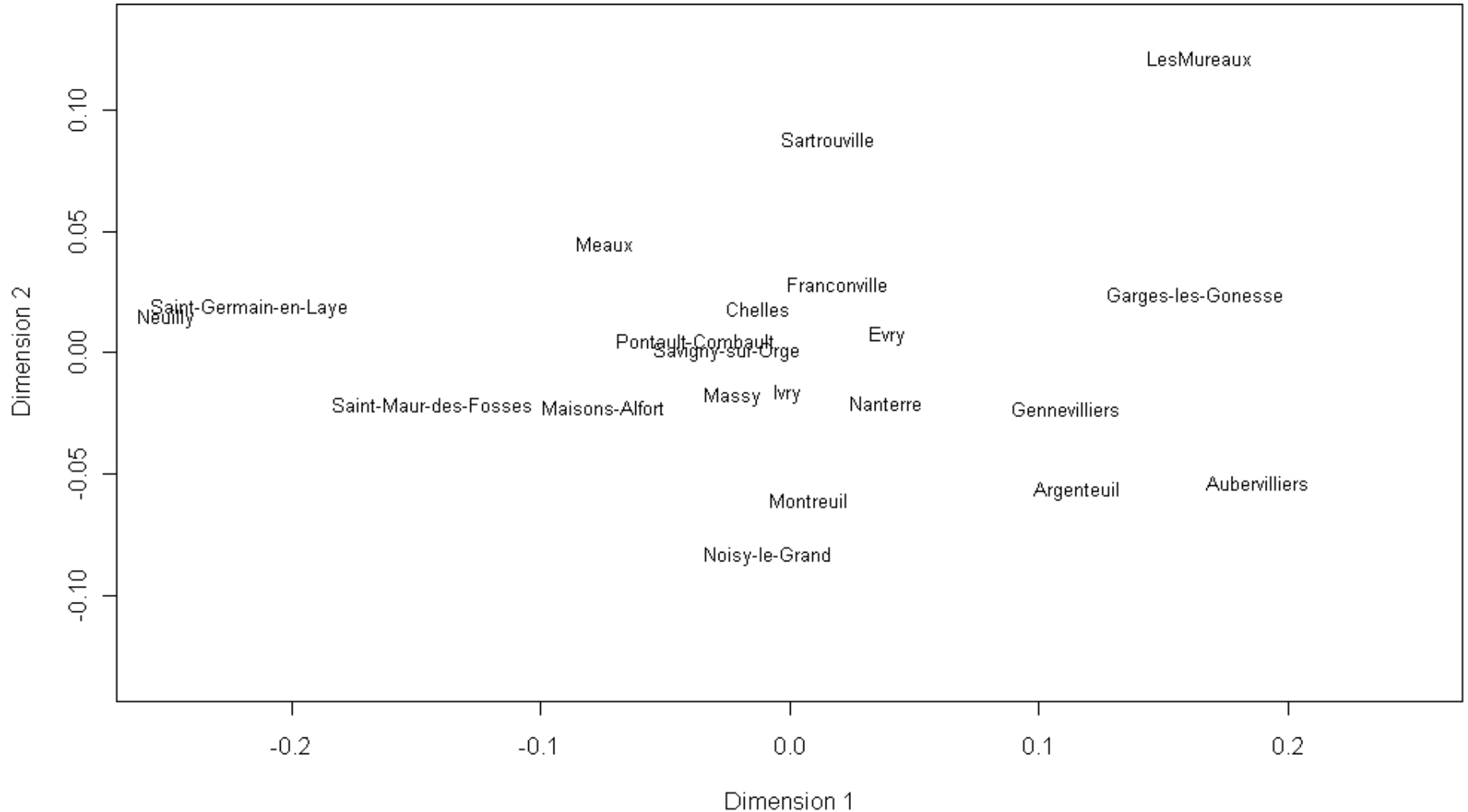
Scaling Display for Overall Reputation



Results: Language Attitudes Survey (6)

Poles of Linguistic Correctness

Scaling Display for Linguistic Correctness



Results: Language Attitudes Survey (7)

Questionnaire Variables Constraining Linguistic Correctness Ratings of 5 Least Linguistically Correct Cities

Multivariate Ordinal Logistic Regression Model Positing Interaction Terms

- ✓ Males were nearly 10 times more likely than females to use lower linguistic correctness ratings
- ✓ Among Upper SES subjects, 31-40 YOA group were 25.56 times more likely than their younger counterparts (<24 YOA) to apply more negative linguistic correctness ratings
- ✓ Males with Medium Anti-Immigrant Bias scores (AIB) significantly **LESS** likely than males with Low AIB to assign harsher linguistic correctness scores

Conclusions: Language Attitudes Survey

Fine-grained representations of linguistic prestige figure into Parisians' mental maps, pattern more with reputation than desirability

Particular cities form perceptual poles on all three evaluative dimensions

Socio-demographic variables, mostly gender, age and SES, constrain linguistic correctness ratings applied to least linguistically prestigious cities



Speech Perception Study

Introduction

Parisian urban youth vernacular thought to be characterized by a pervasive prosodic pattern in which phrase-final lengthening and rising pitch is replaced by penultimate lengthening and / or pitch prominence



Methods: Speech Perception Study

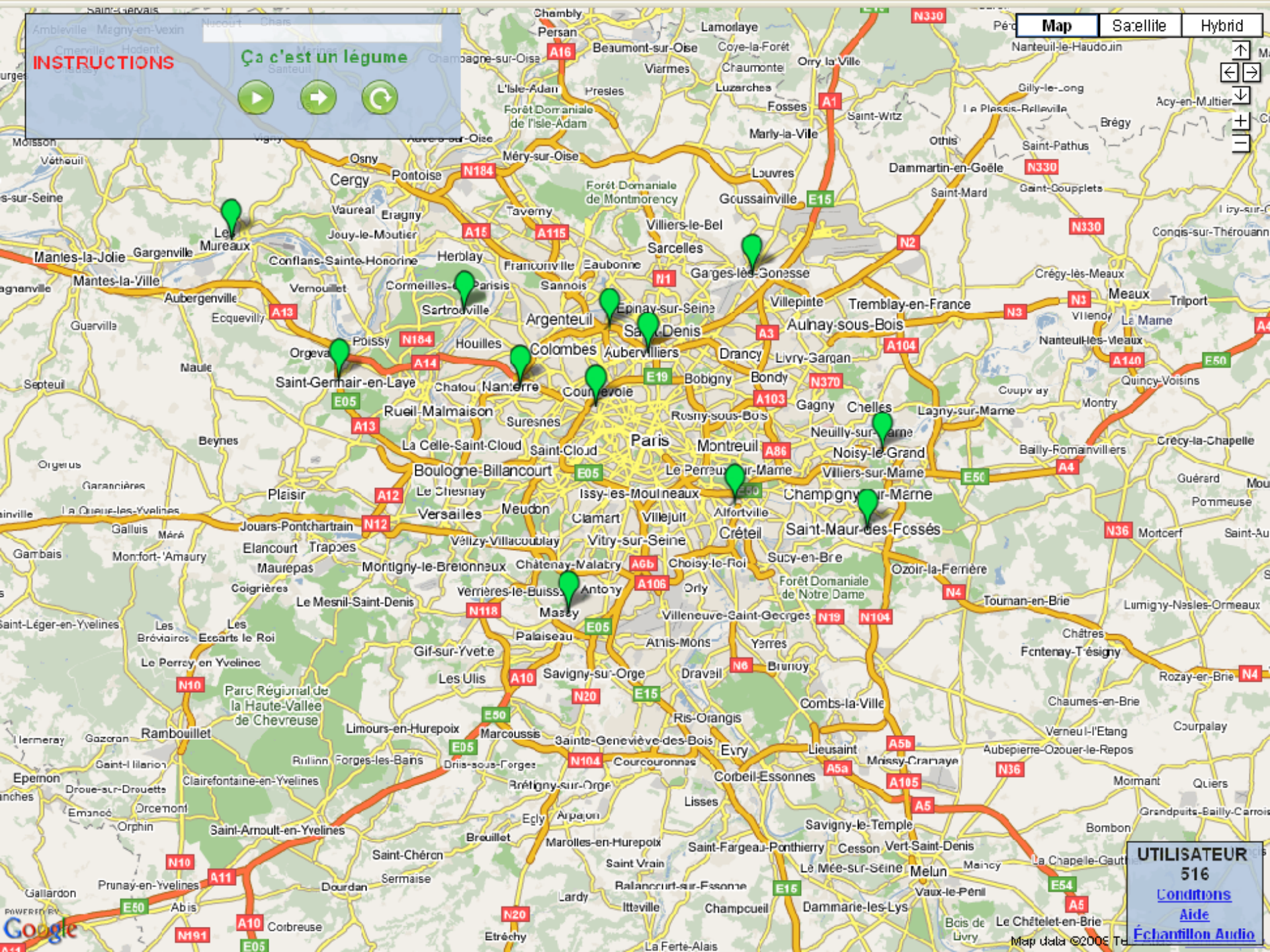
Subjects asked to place stimuli in cities to which they had attributed a linguistic correctness rating in the language attitudes survey

- ✓ 34 participants listened to resynthesized speech samples of 5 target words (*animaux*, *bagages*, *bijoux*, *image* & *légume*)
- ✓ Stimuli varied as to penultimate and final syllable duration and intonation contour shape
- ✓ Stimuli placed in 12 cities previously evaluated in language attitudes survey, placements used as evaluations

INSTRUCTIONS

Ca c'est un légume

▶ → ↻



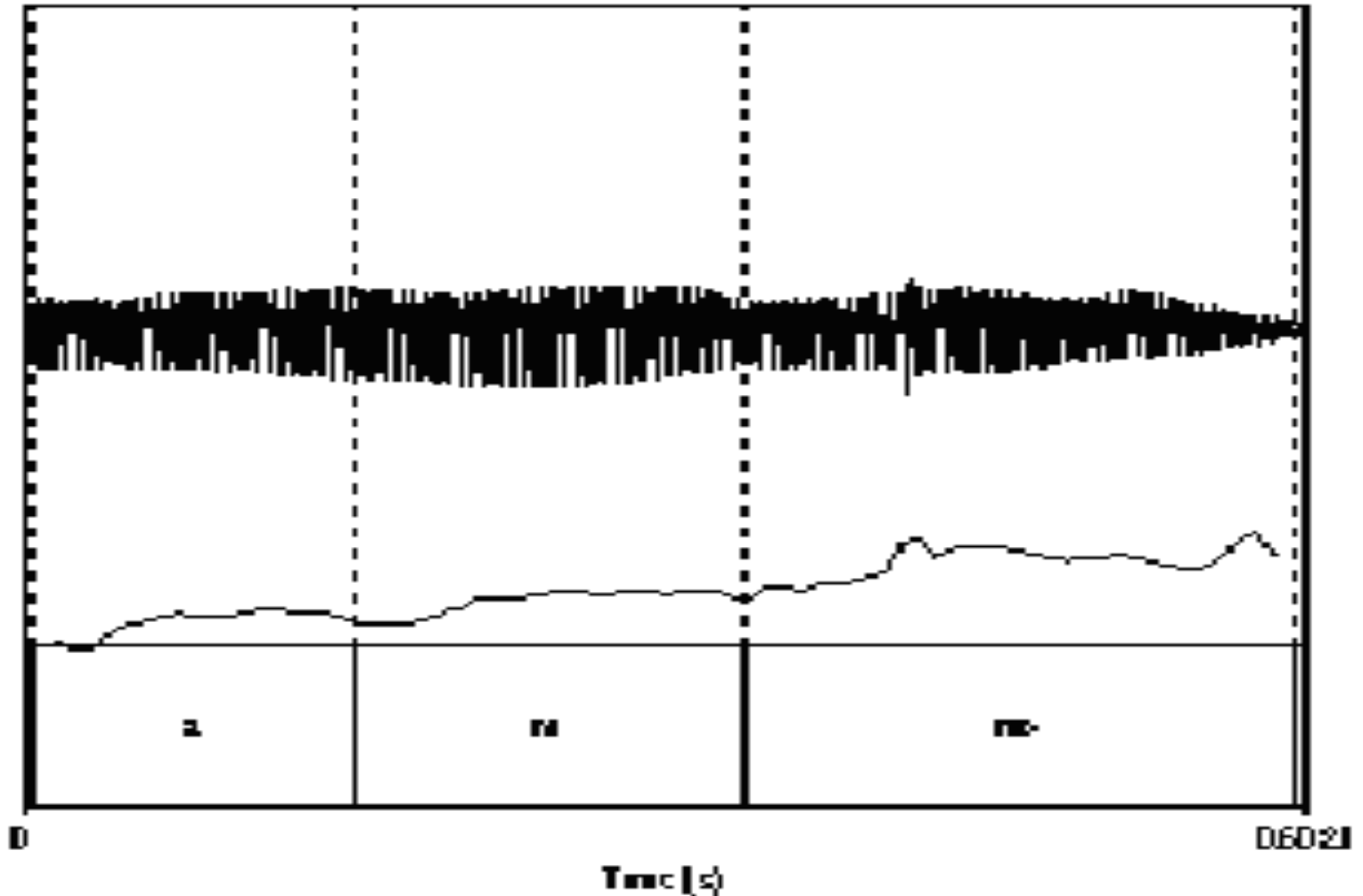
UTILISATEUR
516

[Conditions](#)

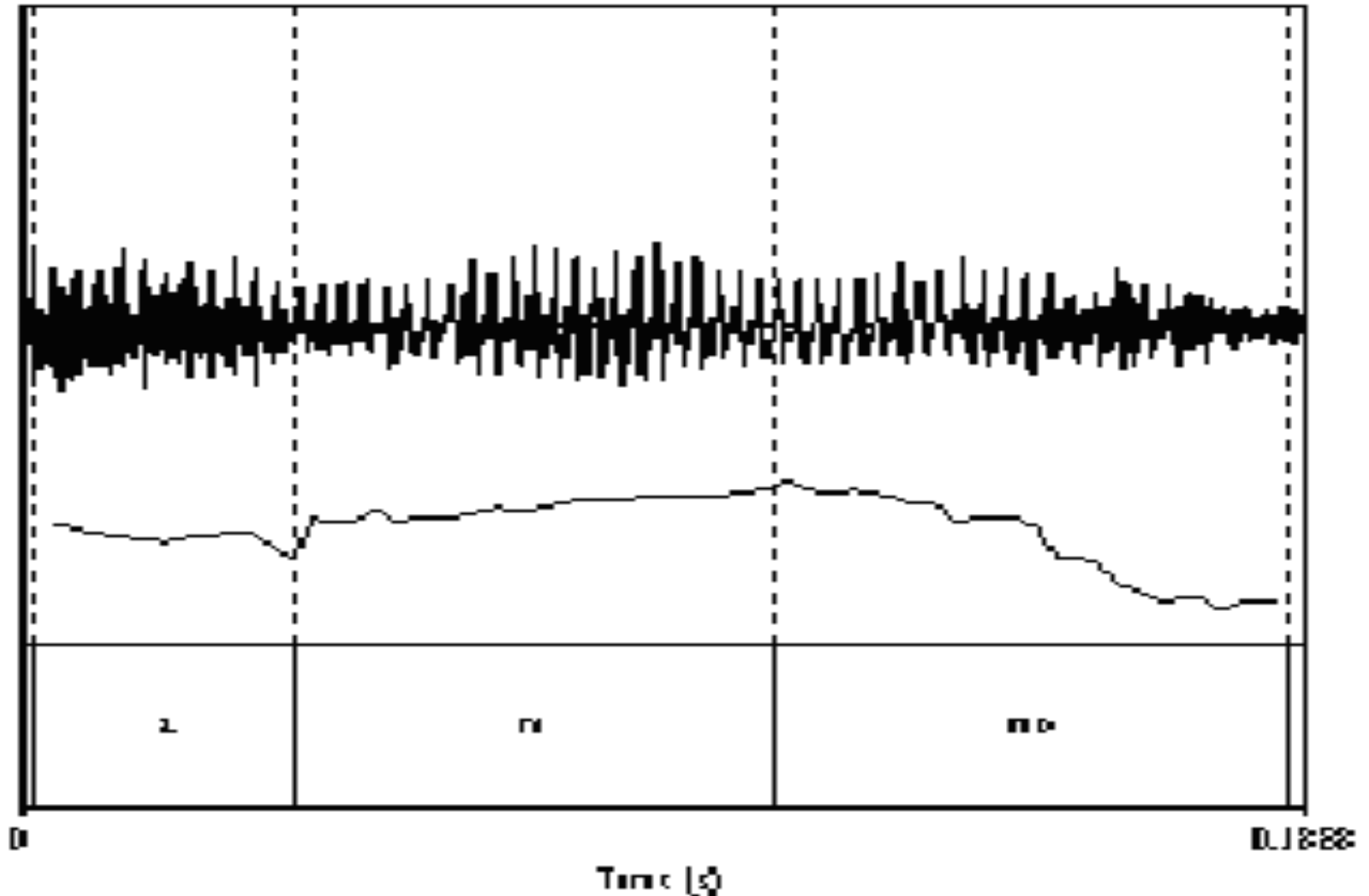
[Aide](#)

[Échantillon Audio](#)

RISE production type-“*animaux*”



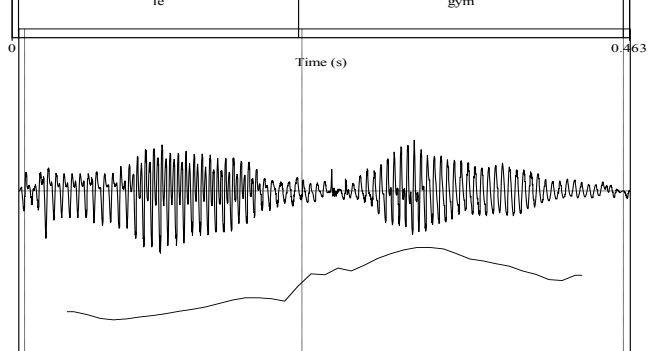
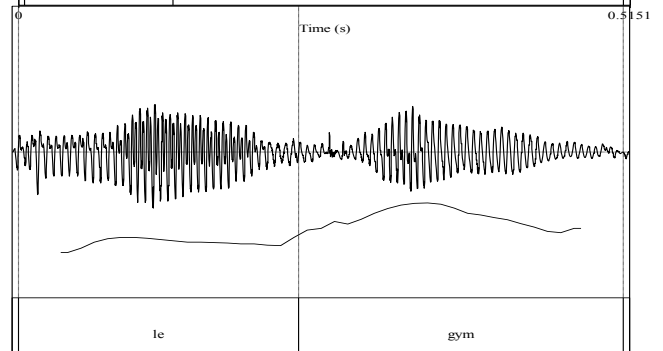
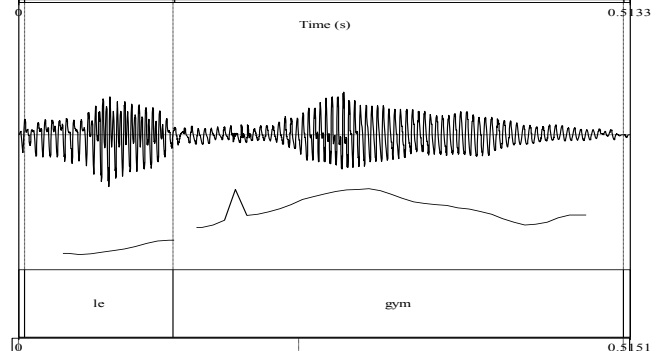
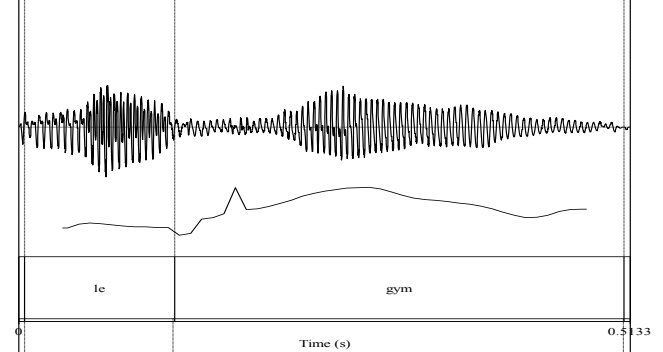
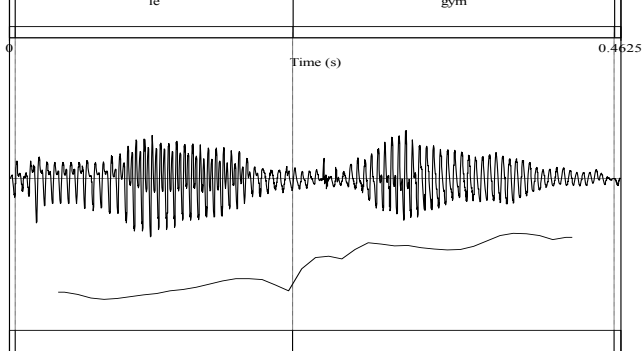
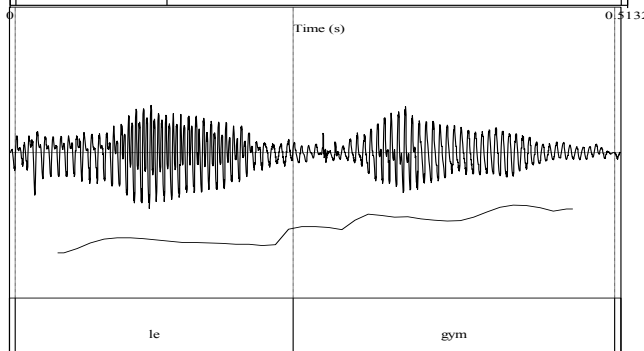
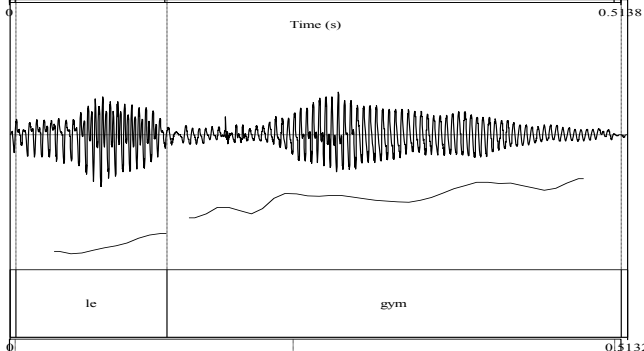
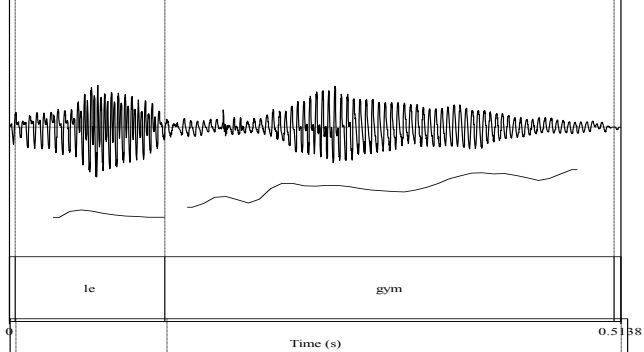
RISE-FALL production type- “*animaux*” 🗣️



Methods: Speech Perception Study (2)

- ⇒ Participants only heard RISE production's segmental make-up
- ⇒ Neutralization of perceived loudness (intensity)
- ⇒ Resynthesis procedures targeting duration
- ⇒ Resynthesis procedures targeting intonation

Resynthesis procedures automated via PRAAT scripting



Results: Speech Perception Study

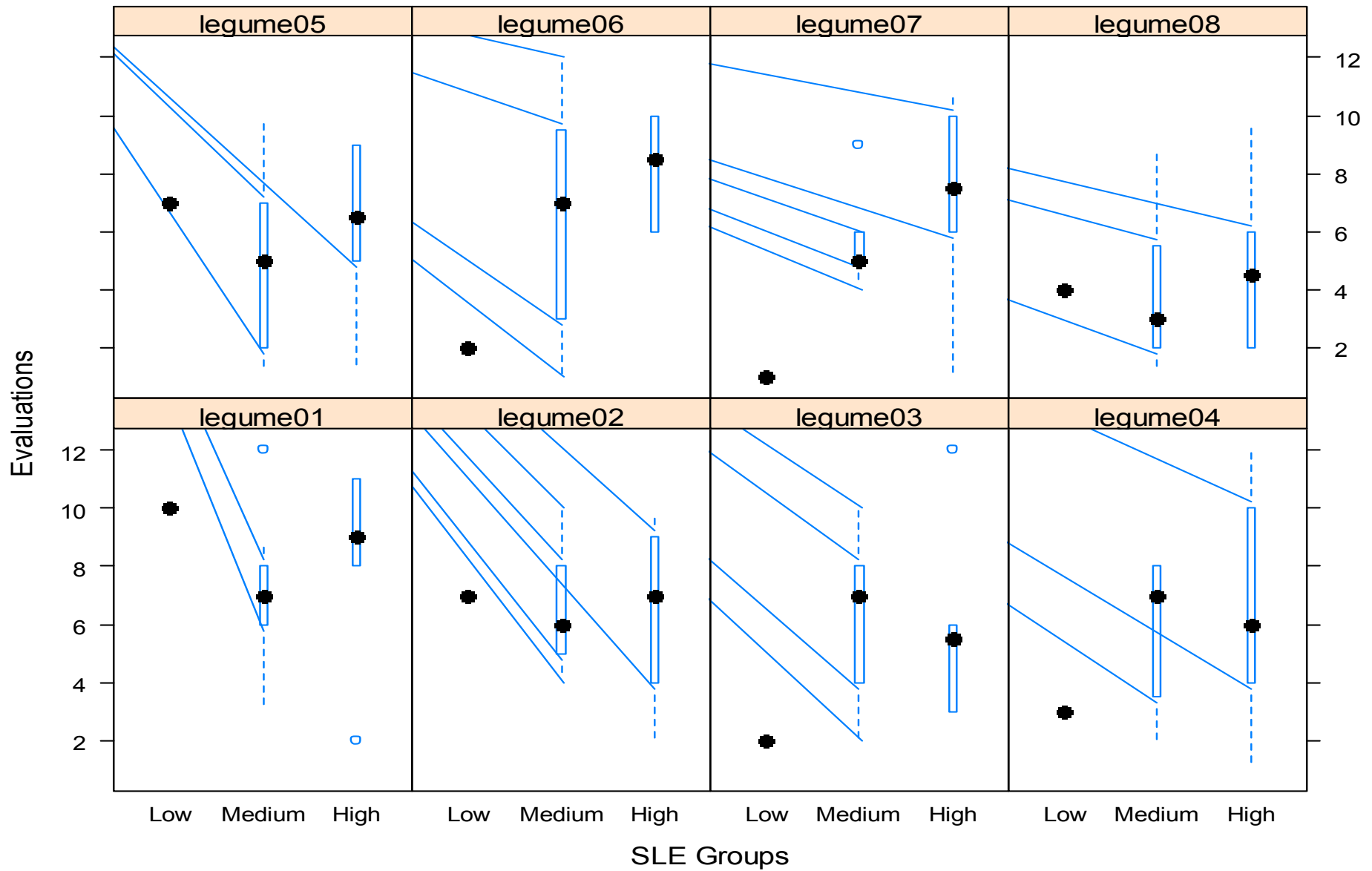
- ✓ Varying penultimate and final duration and intonation contours resulted in statistically significant differences in evaluations for 4 out of 5 stimulus words
- ✓ For 3 of these four, post-hoc testing showed that some form of penultimate prosodic prominence leads to the most negative evaluations
 - most frequently long penultimate and short final combined with penultimate rise and final fall

Results: Speech Perception Study (2)

Using questionnaire data from language attitudes survey, the effect of sociolinguistic experience (SLE) on stimulus evaluation was examined.

Stimuli with penultimate prosodic prominence typically more negatively evaluated by subjects with lower degrees of SLE.

Evaluations of legume Stimuli for SLE Groups



Conclusions: Speech Perception Study

- ✓ Strong-weak penultimate-to-final prosodic pattern associated with cities with low linguistic prestige
 - Stimuli with long penultimate / short final and phrase-final rise-fall intonation contour most consistently generate evaluations of low linguistic correctness

- ✓ Subjects with more experience in dealing with linguistic diversity (High SLE) display more tolerant attitudes towards socially stigmatized socio-phonetic variation

Conclusions

Urban Perceptual Dialectology

Social Cognition in Language Attitudes
and Socio-Phonetic Speech Perception

Parisian French and the Parisian Urban
Youth Vernacular