

Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington train station (south route)

**Endogenous linguistic change in inner-London teenage
speech as the generator of vowel innovations:
Implications for models of innovation, levelling and
diffusion**

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*Linguistic innovators:
the English of adolescents in London, 2004-7*

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www.lancs.ac.uk/fss/projects/linguistics/innovators/index.htm

○ Milton
Keynes

London

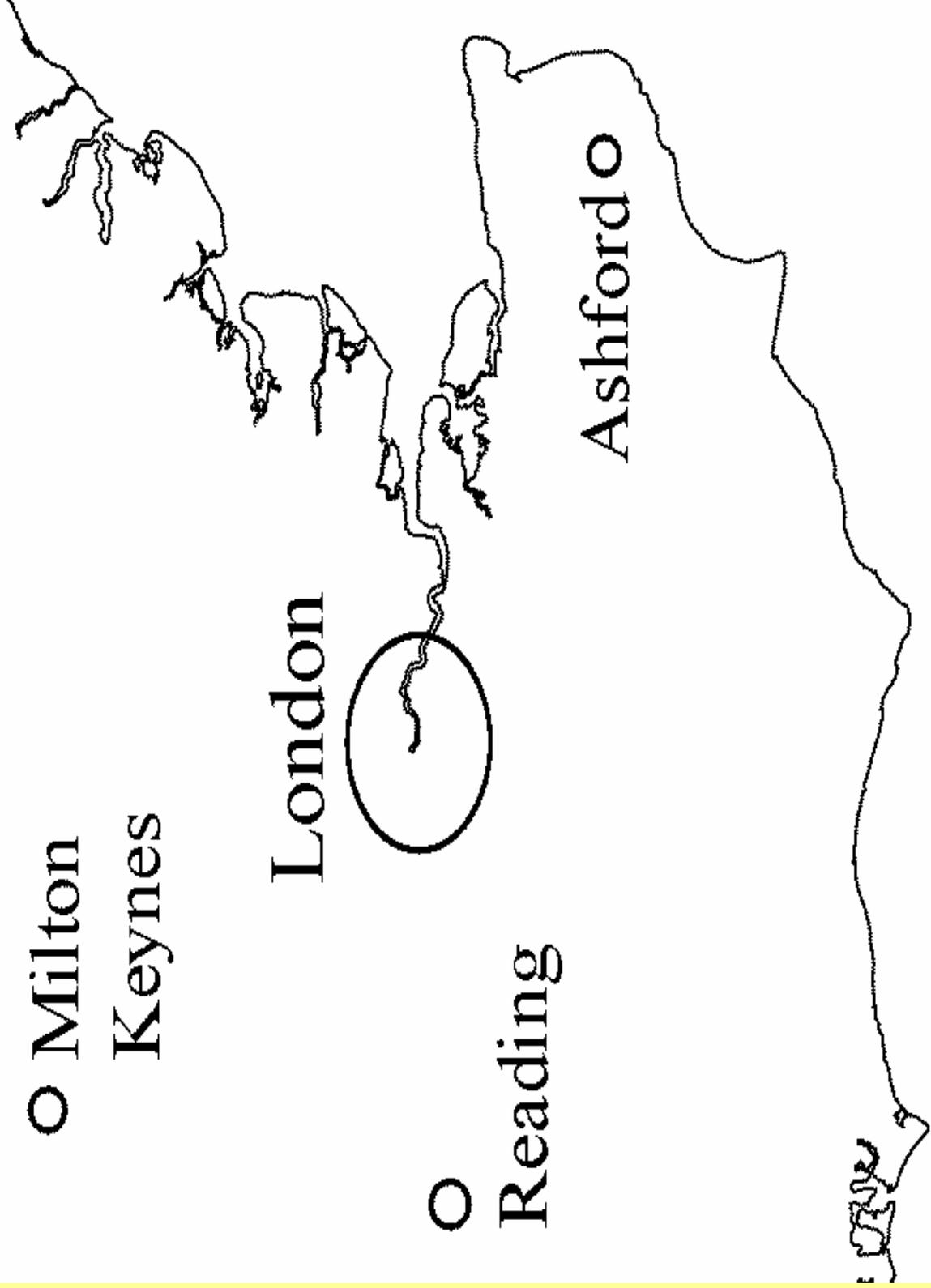
○ Reading

Ashford

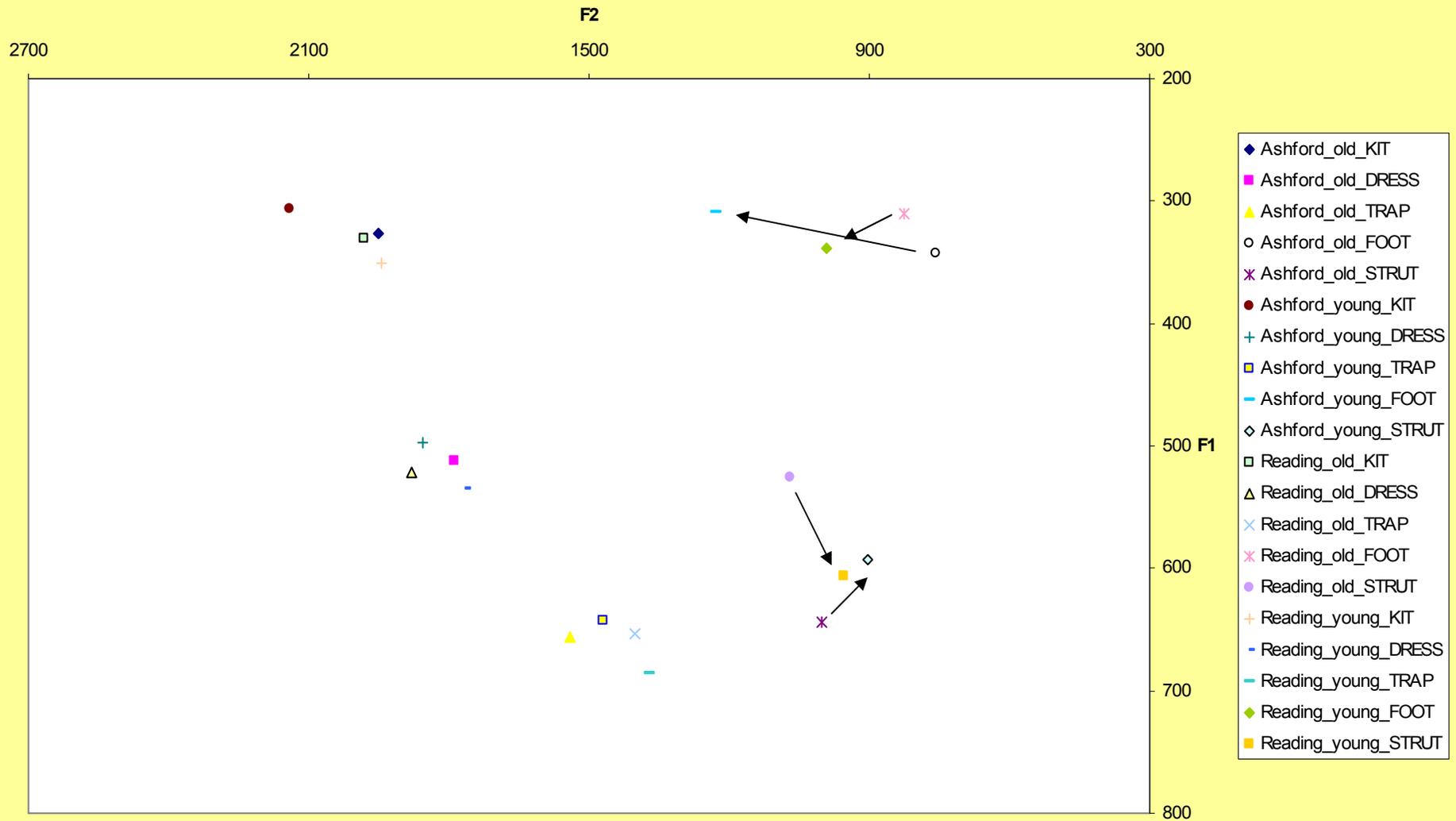
100 km

50

0



Reading/Ashford normalised data



Diphthongs in southeast England

- change in MOUTH (onset being lowered and backed to a low-front position):

[ɛʊ] → [æʊ] → [aʊ]
(rural S.E. → urban S.E. → ‘levelled southern’?)

- change in PRICE: [ɔɪ] → [aɪ]
- stability in FACE – broad diphthong of the type [æɪ]

Reasons for this choice

- Diversity:
 - Social network type, including mobility
 - Ethnicity
 - Language contact
- This leads to presumed different language change patterns

Sample (for both Inner London and Outer London)

32 students aged 16-19 in each borough

16 female

16 male

8 white
'Anglo'
native to
London

8 other-
ethnic

8 white
'Anglo'
native to
London

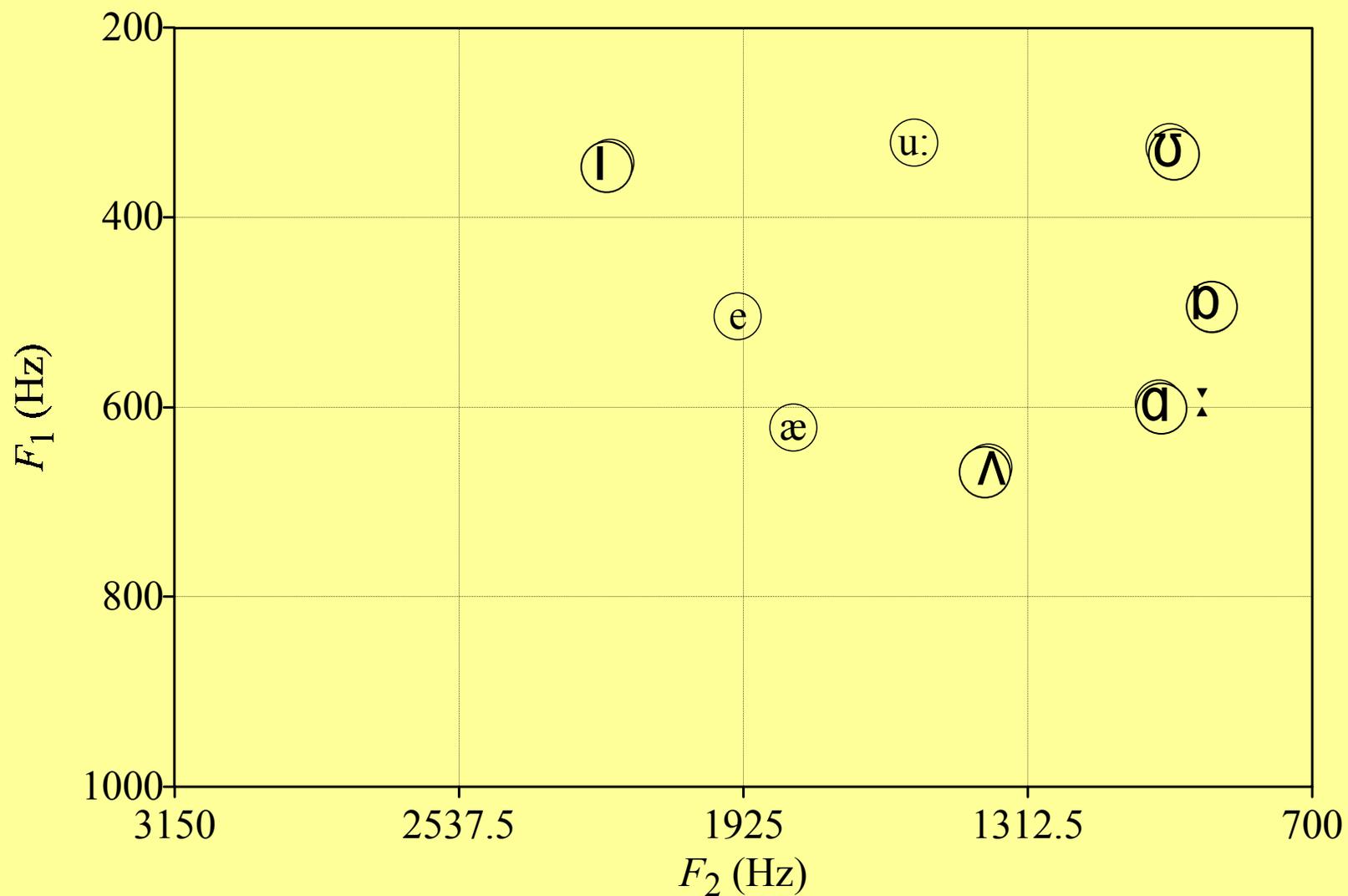
8 other-
ethnic

8 working-class Anglo adults aged 65-80
(4 women, 4 men) in each borough

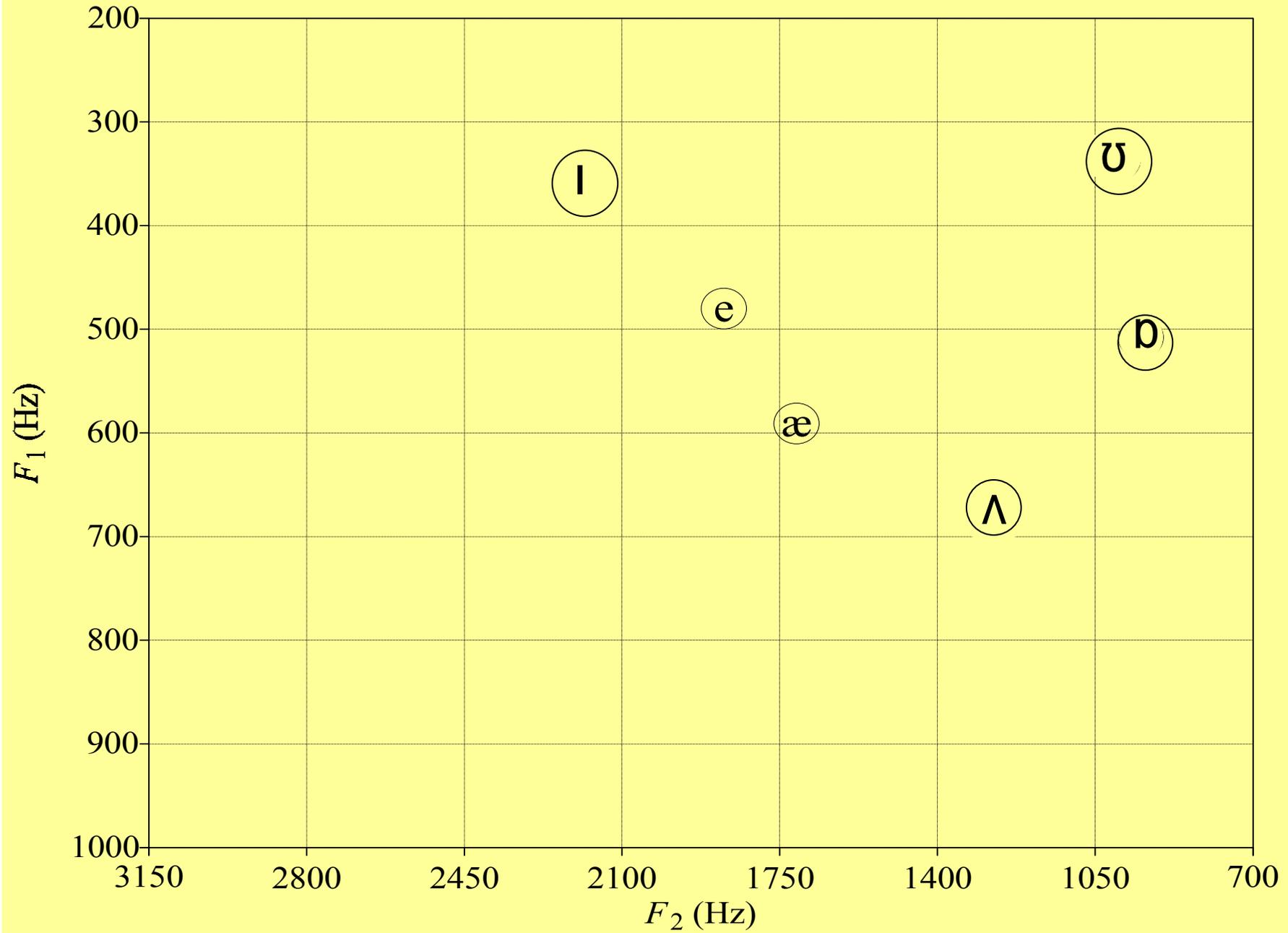
Hypothesised changes

- Inner city vs. outer city: hypothesis that features originating or are widespread in outer London will have a better chance of spreading to e.g. Milton Keynes and Reading
- Changes in **Inner London** (inner city) may originate within the community, but may also arise through language contact
- Changes here may have difficulty in diffusing because of supposed lack of contact
- Changes in **Outer London** (outer city) may be towards levelled forms because of greater mobility and more open communities

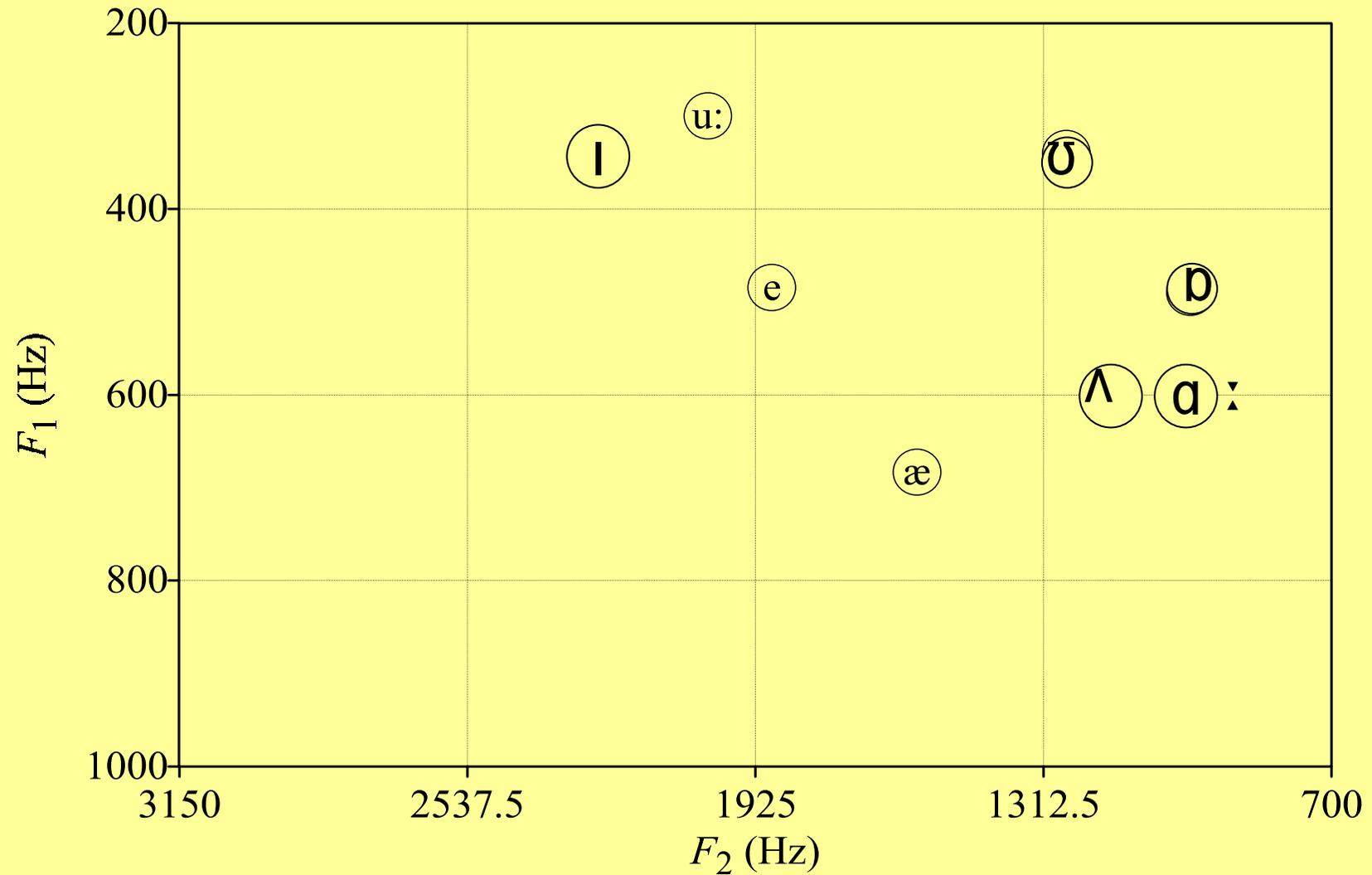
Inner London elderly informants 2005



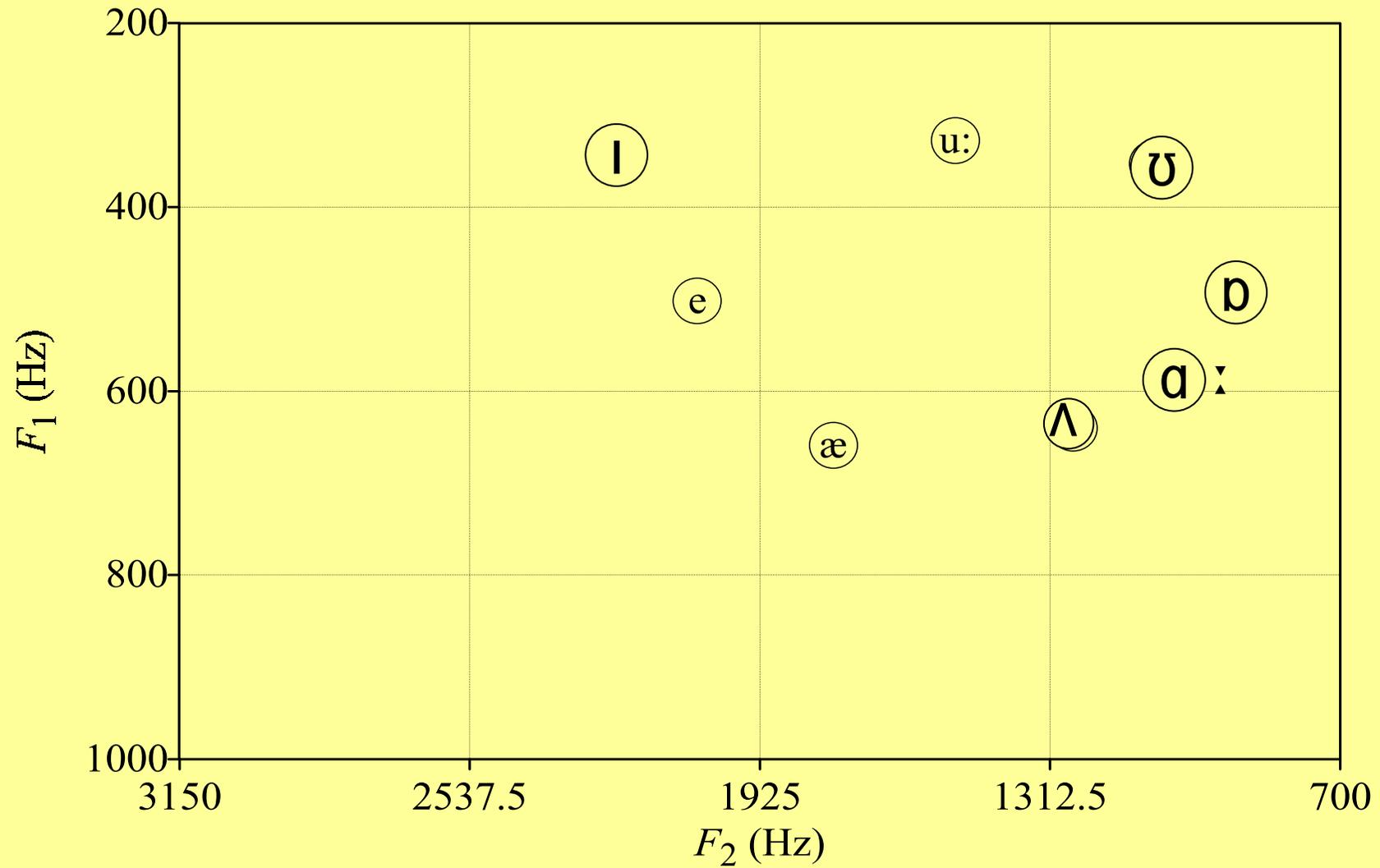
Labov 1968



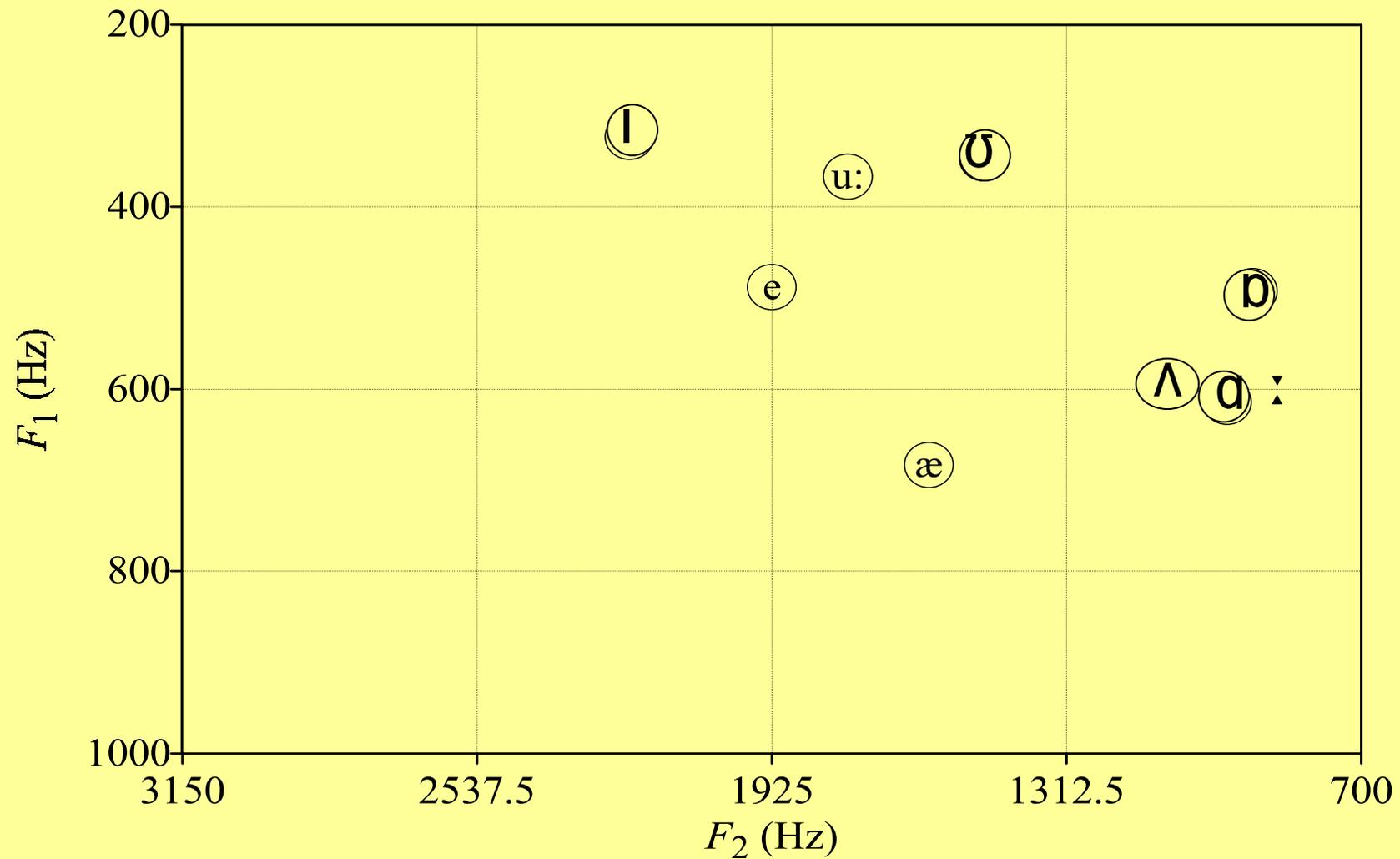
Inner London young informants 2005



Outer London elderly informants 2005



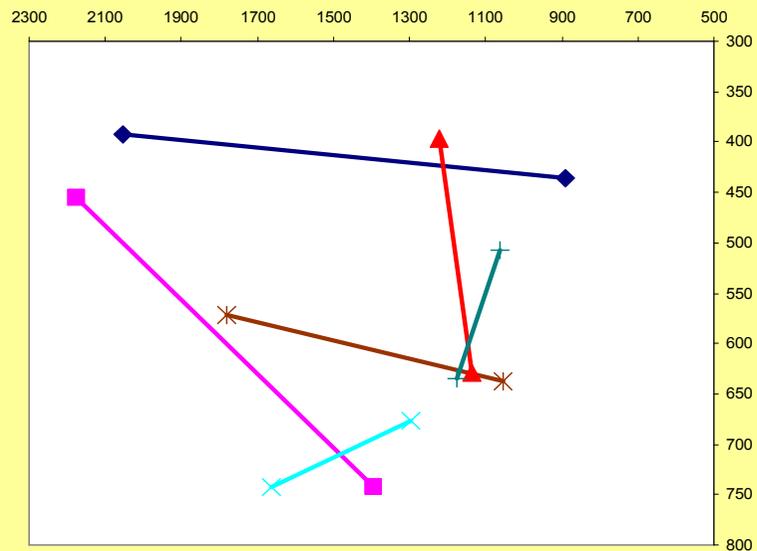
Outer London young informants 2005



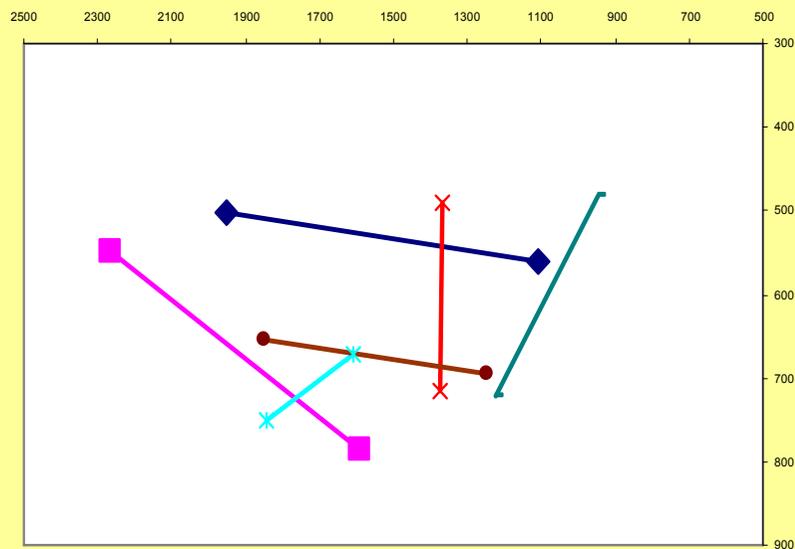
Summary of recent London monophthong changes

- TRAP: backing
- STRUT: backing and raising
- TRAP and STRUT backing is more advanced in London than in South East periphery
- FOOT : fronted in Outer London, but not fronted in Inner London
- GOOSE: strongly fronted in Inner London, less so in Outer London
- Effects of ethnicity?

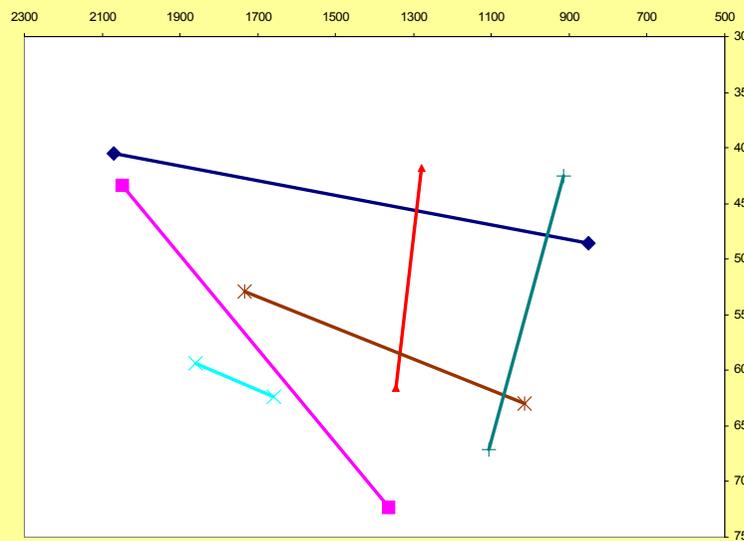
Elderly informants in Inner London and Outer London



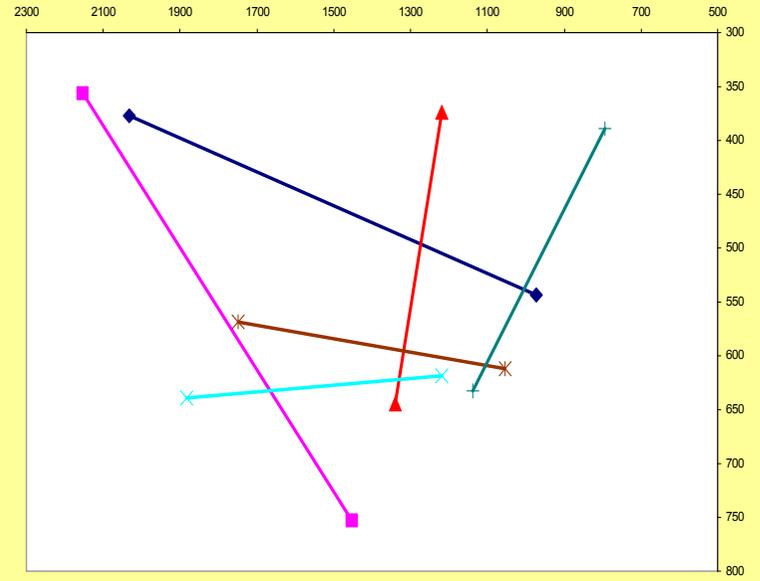
Mr D, b1918, Inner London



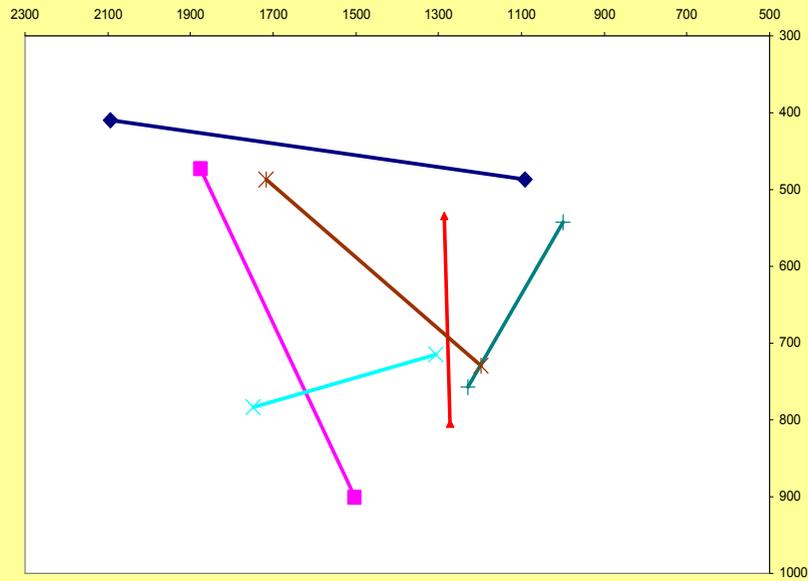
Mrs E, b1928, Inner London



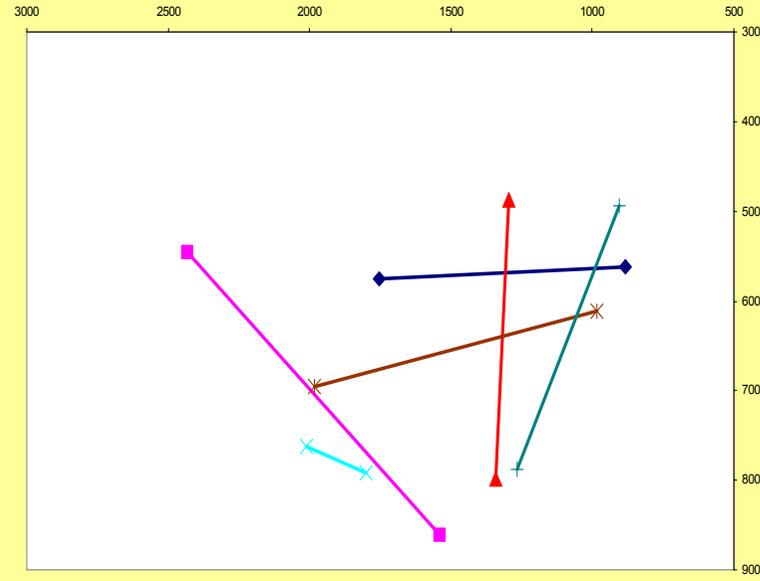
Mr J, b1938, Inner London



Mr S, b1927, Outer London

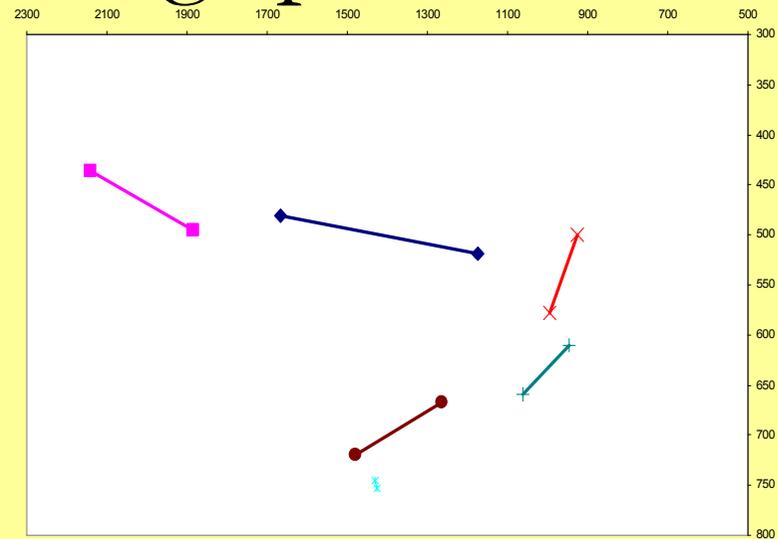
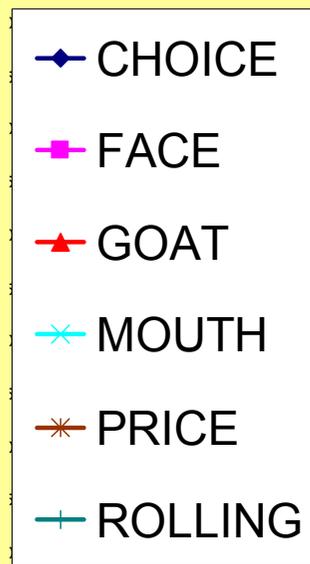


Mrs S, b1935, Outer London

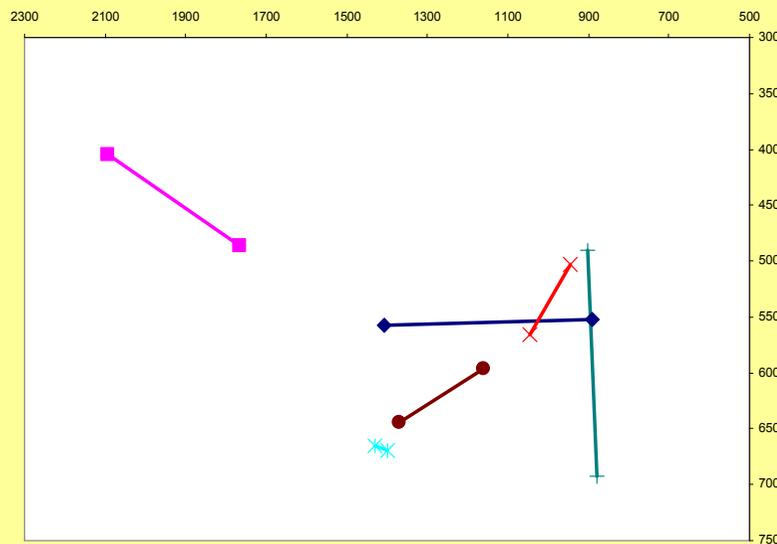


Mrs W, b1943, Outer London

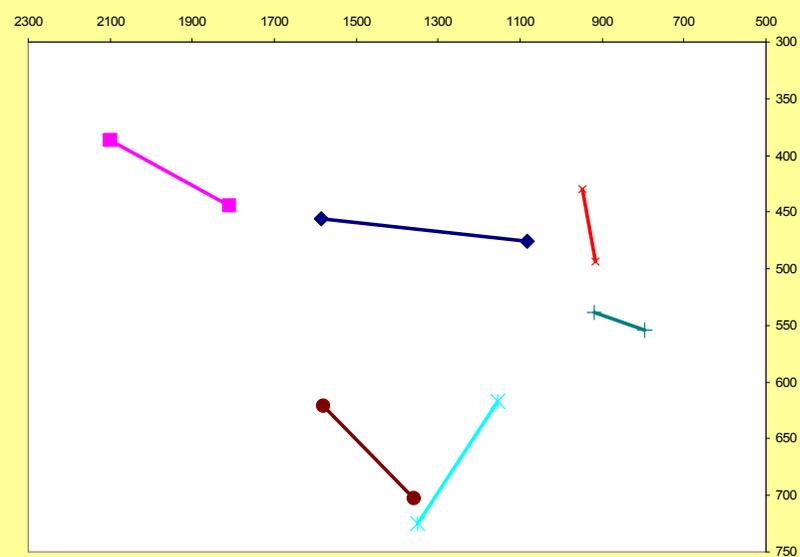
Inner London young speakers



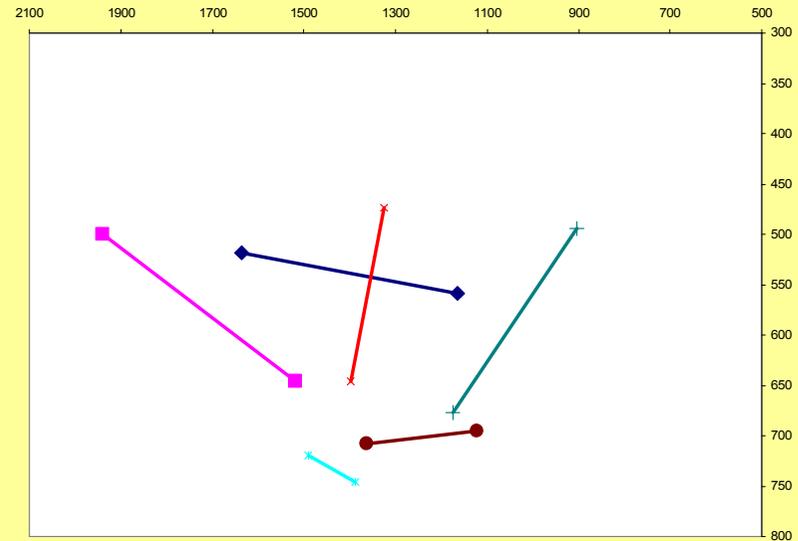
Brian, Caribbean



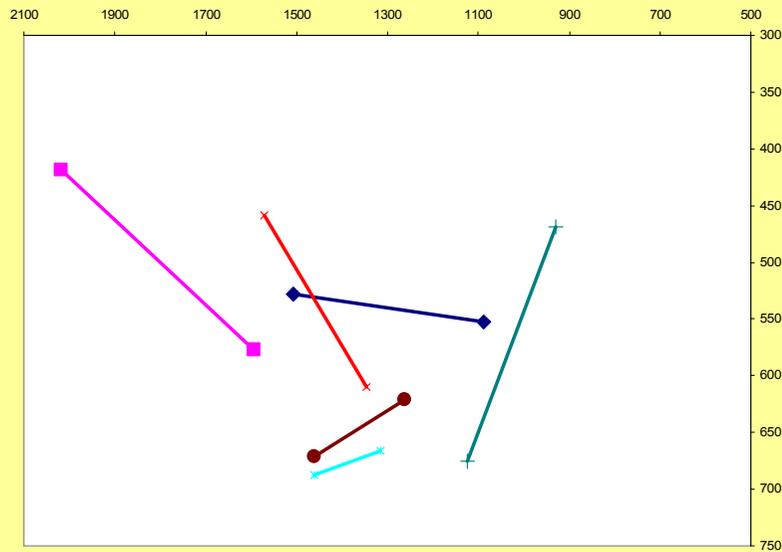
Alan, Middle Eastern



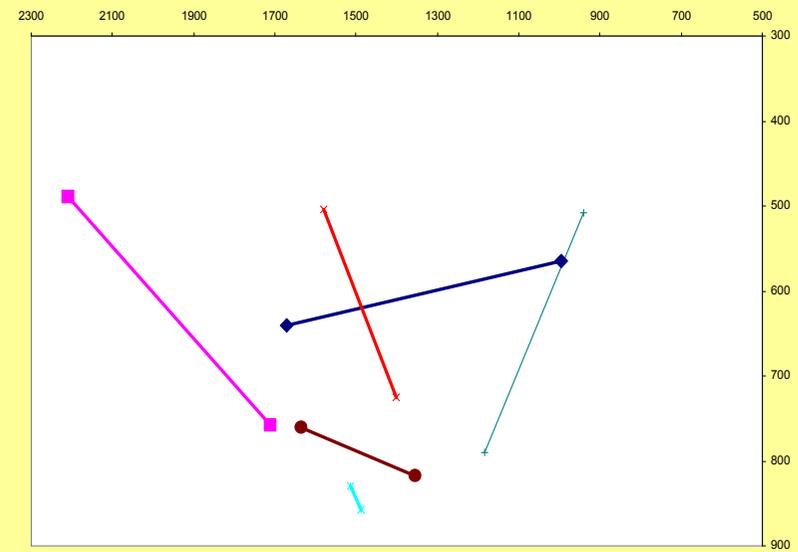
Adam, West African



Jack, Anglo

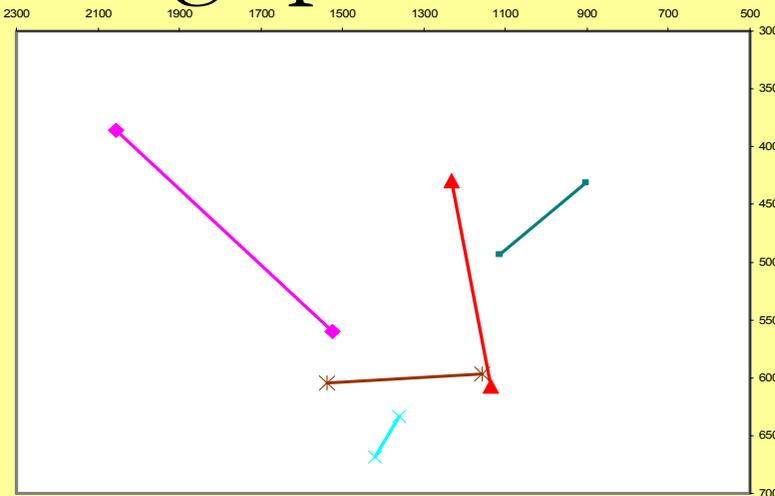


Mark, mixed heritage

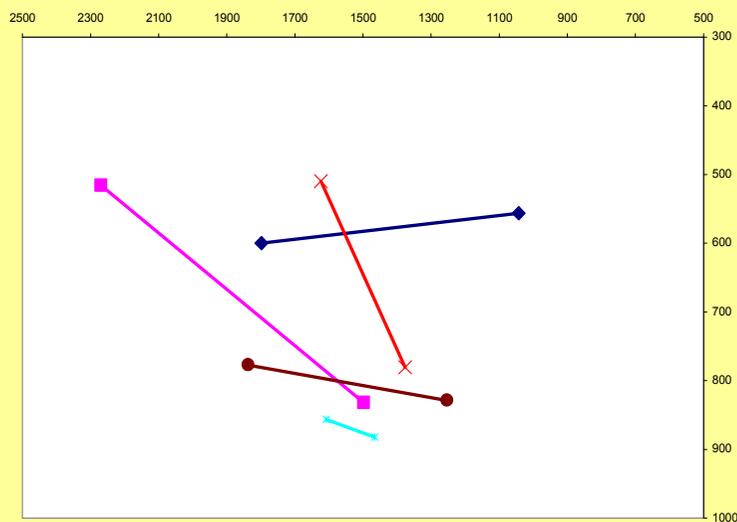


Laura, Anglo

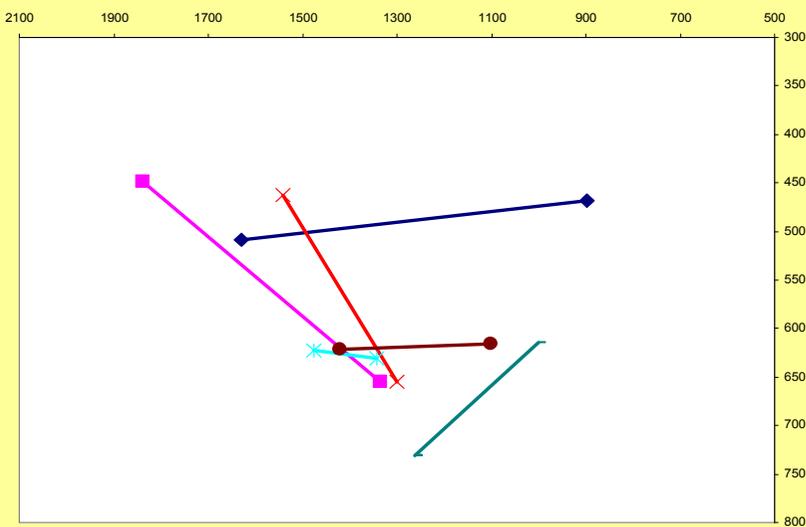
Outer London young speakers



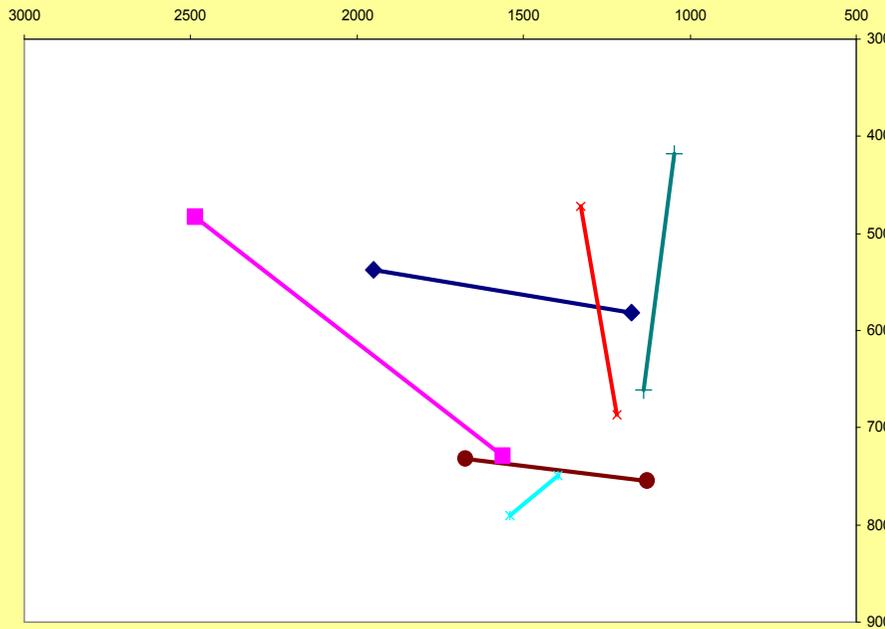
John, mixed heritage



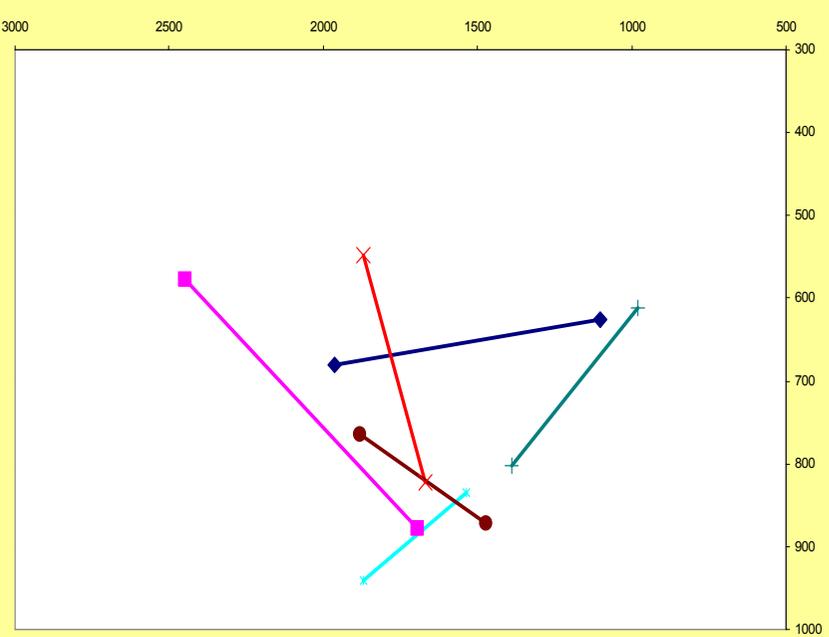
Ollie, Anglo



Carl, Anglo



Donna, Anglo



Chloe, Anglo

Summary of recent London diphthong changes

- PRICE: fronting and lowering of onset among Inner London and Outer London youth - reversal of diphthong shift
- Also, PRICE often a near-monophthong among Inner London young people, especially non-Anglo
- MOUTH: remains low-front near-monophthong for all speakers – stability of diphthong-shifted variant over time and across ethnicities. Little sign of levelled southeastern [aʊ]
- FACE: reversal of diphthong shift to a front closing diphthong, most strongly among non-Anglo
- GOAT: fronted offset ('Milton Keynes' variant) OR a back close monophthong

Endogenous vs. exogenous change?

- Endogenous change: generated from within the speech community
- Exogenous change: caused by *dialect contact*

Types of diphthong changes

	FACE	PRICE	MOUTH	GOAT
Monophthongisation	Inner London NA	Inner London NA	Inner London Outer London Elderly	Inner London NA
Onset raising	Inner London A Outer London			
Onset fronting		Inner London A		
Onset lowering		Outer London MK/Reading	MK/Reading	
Offset fronting				MK/Reading Outer London Inner London girls

A=Anglo

NA=non-Anglo

Innovation
(endogenous)

Anti-diphthong shift

Levelling
(exogenous)

Conclusion

- Vowel changes in inner London and in the South East follow different paths
- Backing of TRAP and STRUT is more advanced in London than in the South East periphery
- FOOT-fronting is widespread in South East periphery
 - Also found in Outer London, but *not* in Inner London
- For FACE, PRICE and GOAT, the reversal of diphthong shift is more advanced in Inner London than in Outer London
- Non-Anglo boys seem to be strongly in the lead
- MOUTH *retains* its diphthong-shifted vowel in London
 - But London does *not* take part in the South East periphery lowering to [aʊ]

- All these developments lead to:
 - divergence/innovation in inner London
(endogenous)
 - levelling in the periphery – Outer London, Reading, Milton Keynes and Ashford **(exogenous)**
 - the *outer* periphery, e.g. Milton Keynes, in the lead in levelling

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