

Speech on Safari: Observations from spontaneous Scottish English over time
(Jane Stuart-Smith)

The majority of our understanding of speech production is based on empirical investigations of speech from the laboratory, often citation forms and/or read speech. Speech in spontaneous interaction with other speakers has received far less attention, particularly the acoustic phonetic analysis of consonants in naturally-occurring talk. This paper will draw on recent findings from the Sounds of the City real-time corpus of spontaneous Glaswegian English vernacular speech, comprising recordings from 144 speakers, male and female, over four decades and three age groups, giving an effective real- and apparent-time span across the 20th century. Here I will focus on real-time acoustic phonetic results from three kinds of consonants: stops (duration/voicing during closure), liquids /r l/ (dynamic formants), and fricatives /s ʃ/ (dynamic spectral noise). Using this evidence I will consider what more we can learn from the empirical examination of speech sounds in their natural habitat.