

Are there geographical biases in the study of language variation and change?

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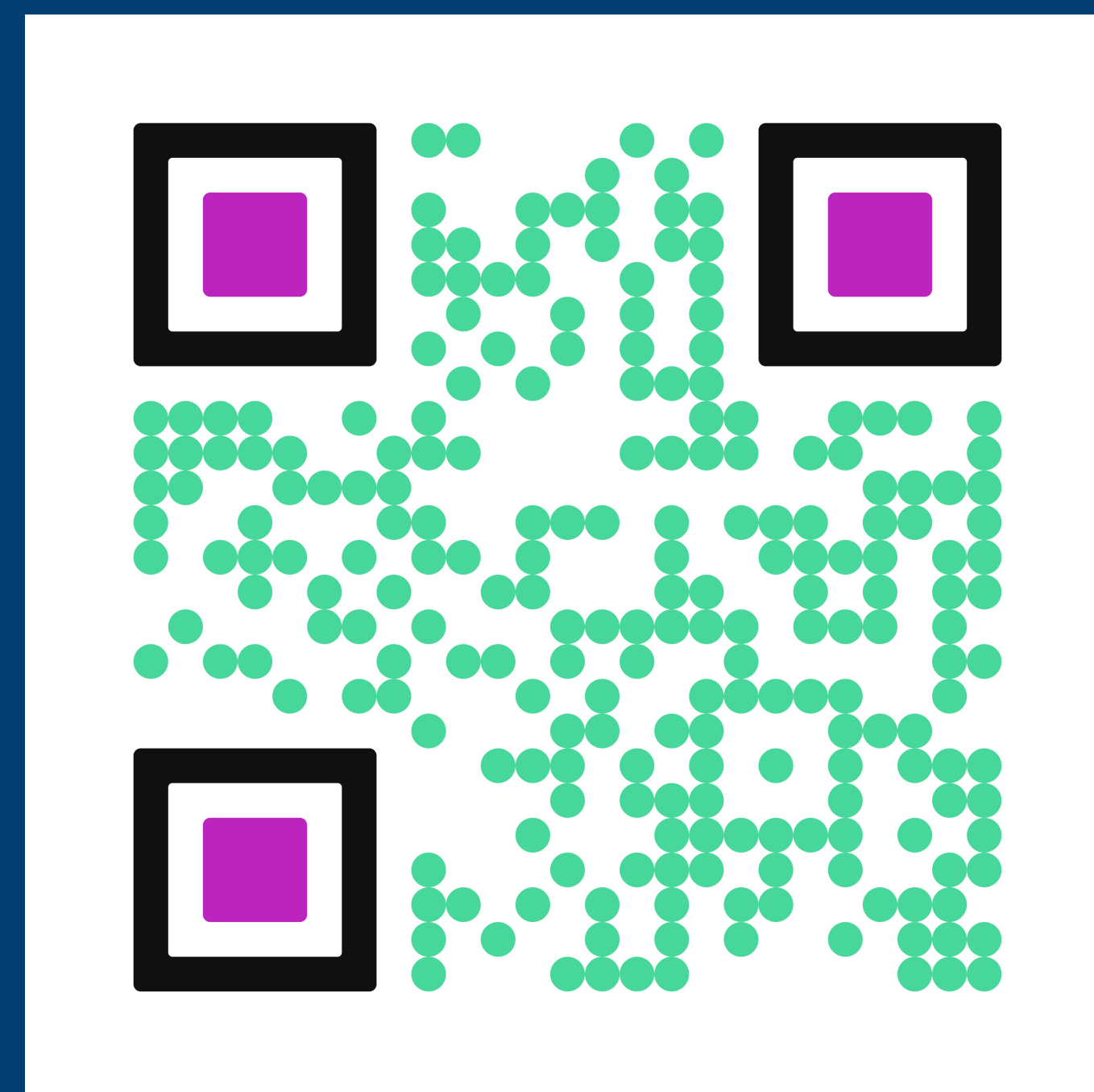
Introduction

Bias in science is unavoidable, and sociolinguistics is no different. In order to combat sources of bias, we must first identify its existence. With this study we aim to:

- Assess whether there is bias towards studying some varieties of native English over others.
- Assess the effect of geographical locations of research institutions on the frequency of studies on different varieties of native English.
- To assess whether certain other characteristics of research and geography (e.g. the existence of corpora/average income of the area where the variety is spoken) of varieties effects the frequency of studies published.

Minority Report

Main argument/finding etc.



Scan to access materials for this study on Github.

Methods

In order to meet our aims we:

- Systematically searched for studies on each particular variety of native English as identified by wikipedia.
- Wikipedia was used so as it serves as a kind of public self-identifier for speakers of speaking different varieties.
- The data returned from searches was manually assessed for relevance to our study, and removed if it was not relevant.
- The remaining studies from each search were counted and the frequency of papers found per variety were used the outcome variable in generalised linear models.
- Data for predictor variables was found using systematic google searches, and included the existence of a corpus for a certain variety, the average income of the area where the variety is spoken, and the geographical distance between the local area of a variety and the nearest university.

Pilot results