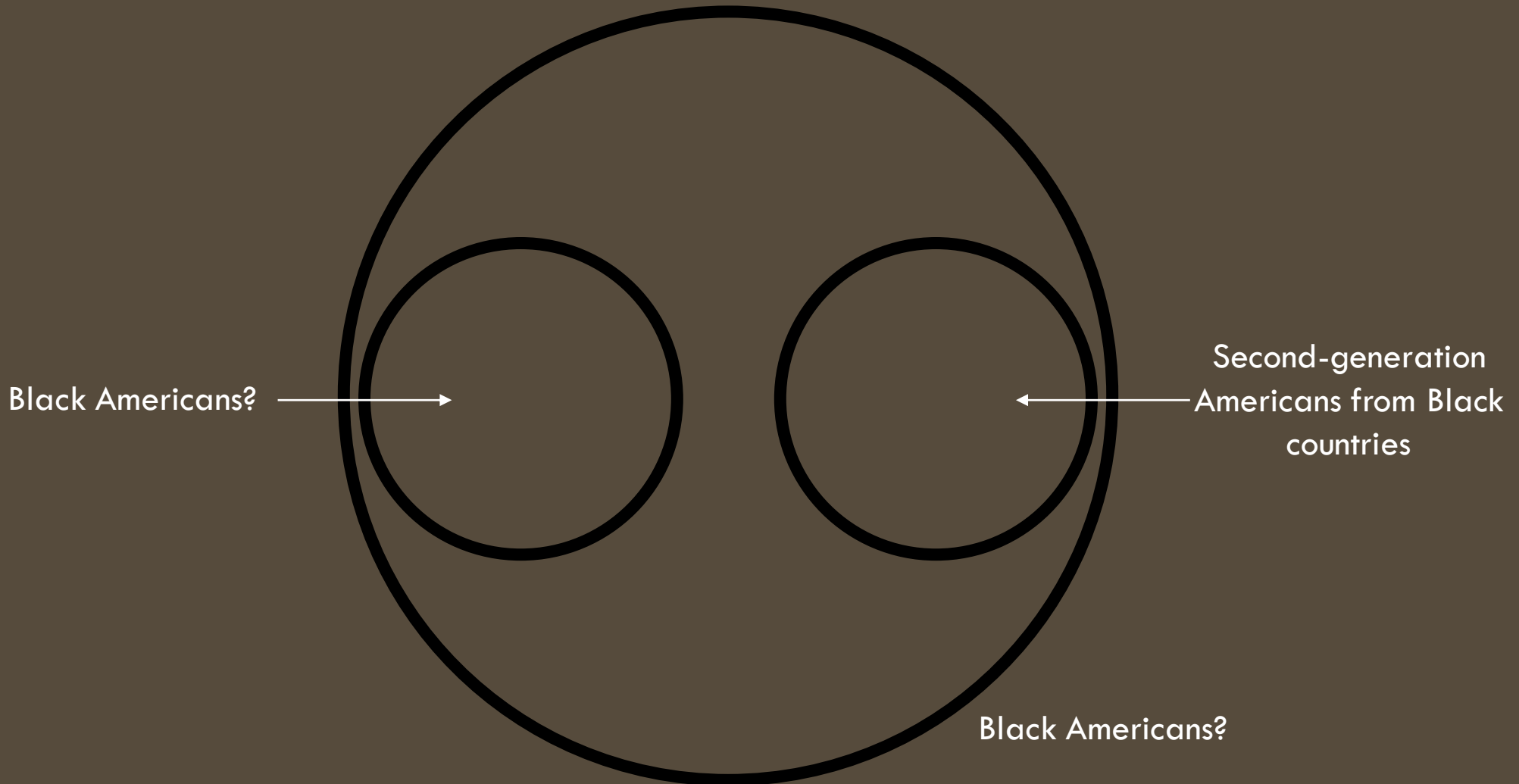# COMPARING AND CONTRASTING BLACK GEORGIANS AND SECOND-GENERATION AMERICANS
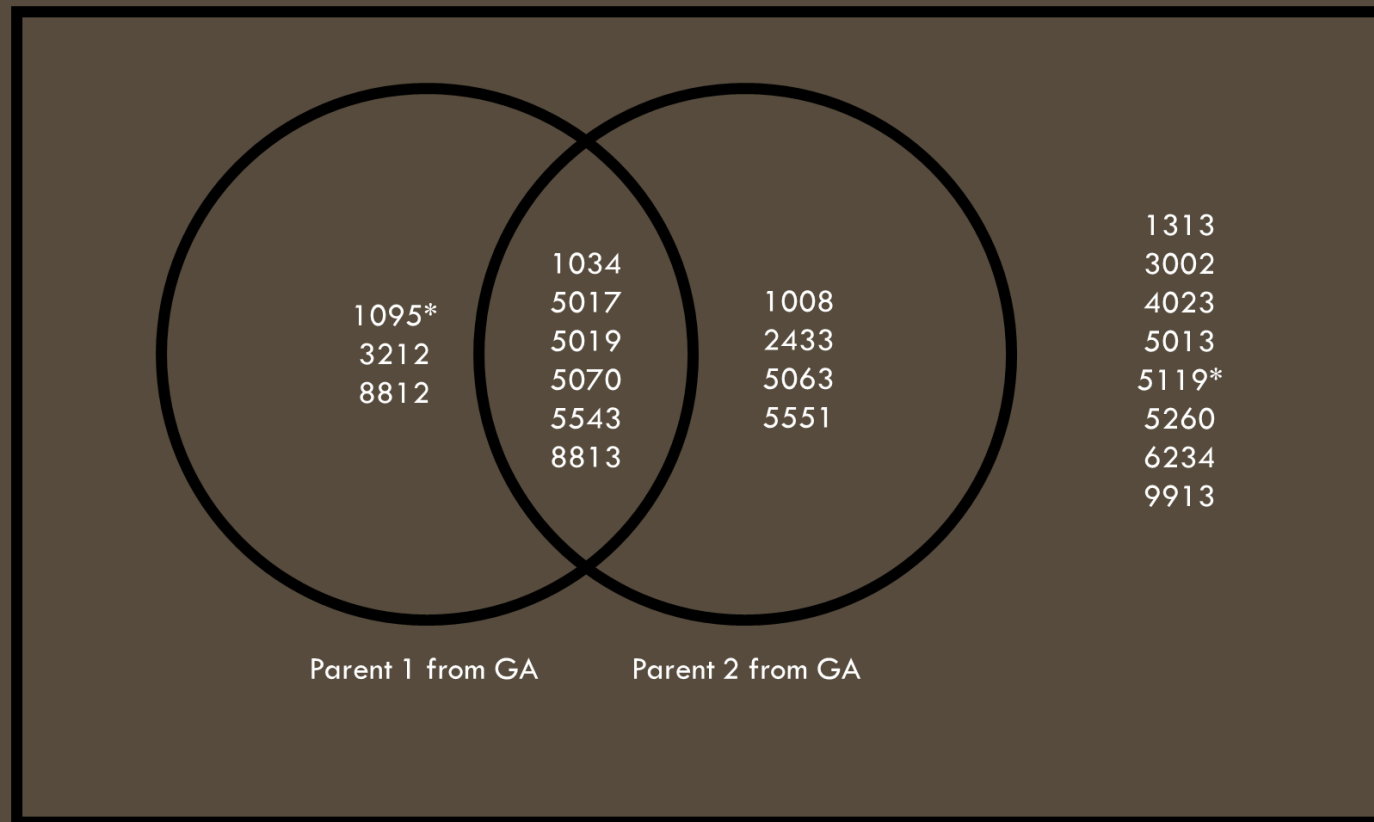
presented by Tobi Adewoye

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Is there a difference between the way in which Black people native to America and Black second-generation Americans speak?

- To what extent do a person's parents influence the way in which they speak?

HOW DO WE CLASSIFY OUR SPEAKERS?

Black Americans?

Second-generation Americans from Black countries

Black Americans?

BLACK SPEAKERS

6978

Both parents from
the Caribbean

1313
3002
4023
5013
5119*
5260
6234
9913

1034
5017   1008
5019   2433
5070   5063
5543   5551
8813

1095*
3212
8812

Parent 1 from GA   Parent 2 from GA

Both parents from
the United States

1708*
4341
5033
5036
5066
5099
5111
5538
9012

Both parents from an
African country

SUBJECTS OF THIS STUDY

1034	4341
1095	5033
5017	5036
5019	5066
5070	5099
8813	9012

Both parents from GA

Both parents from Africa

DO THE GROUPS USE DIFFERENT WORDS?

```python
parents["Both Parents from Georgia"] = ['1034', '1095', '5017', '5019', '5070', '8813']
parents["Both Parents from Africa"] = ['4341', '5033', '5036', '5066', '5099', '9012']

grids = {k: {} for (k, v) in parents.items()}

for k in parents.keys():
    speakers = parents[k]
    for s in speakers:
        grid_path = "TextGrids/{}_Interview.TextGrid".format(s)
        if os.path.exists(grid_path):
            grid = textgrid.TextGrid.fromFile(grid_path)
            grids[k][s] = grid

word_counts = {k: {} for (k, v) in parents.items()}

for k in grids.keys():
    speakers = grids[k]
    for s in speakers:
        grid = grids[k][s][0]
        for i in range(len(grid)):
            if grid[i].mark:
                words = grid[i].mark.split()
                for word in words:
                    word = word.lower()
                    if word in word_counts[k].keys():
                        word_counts[k][word] += 1
                    else:
                        word_counts[k][word] = 1
```
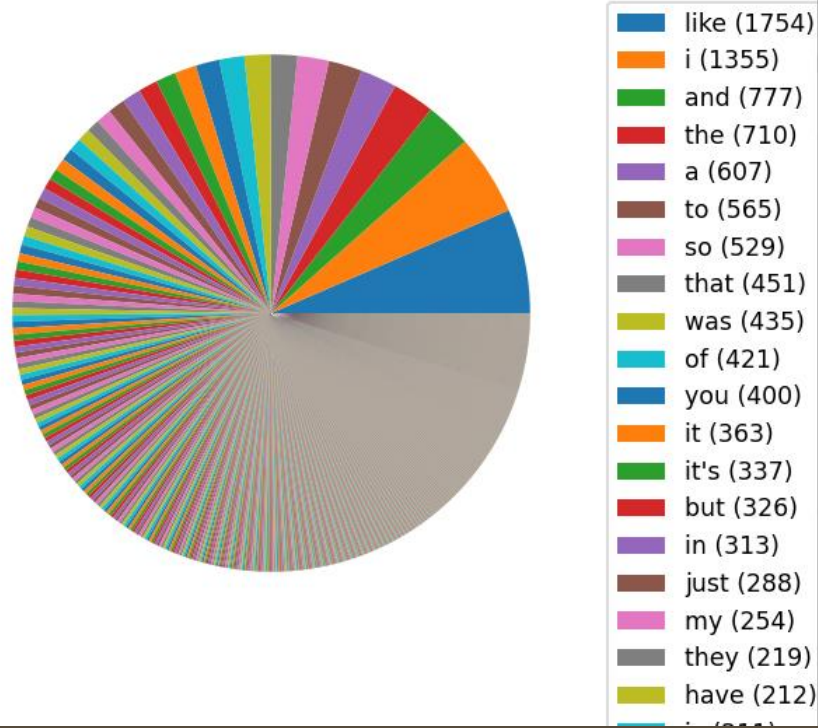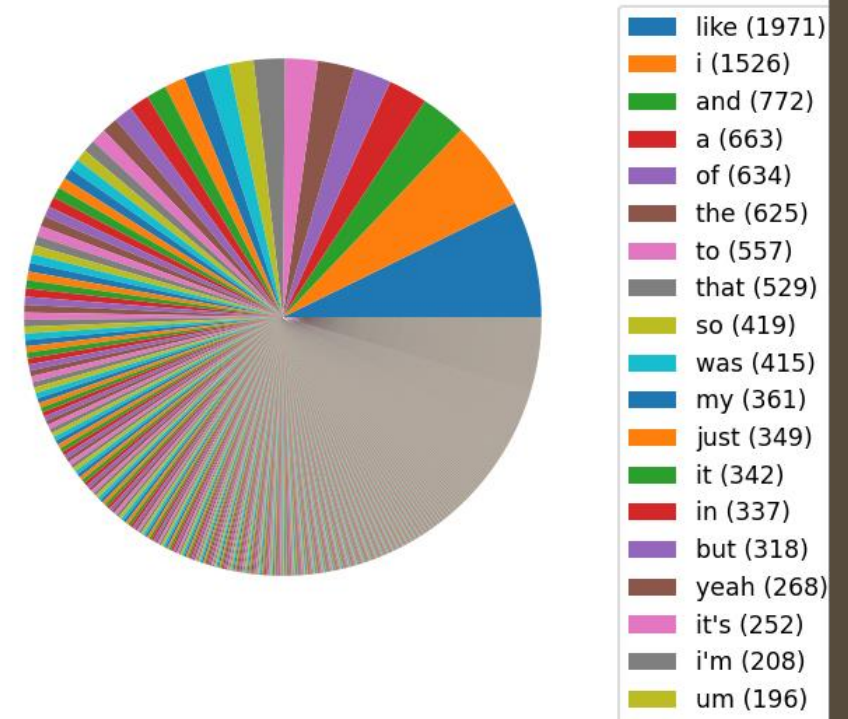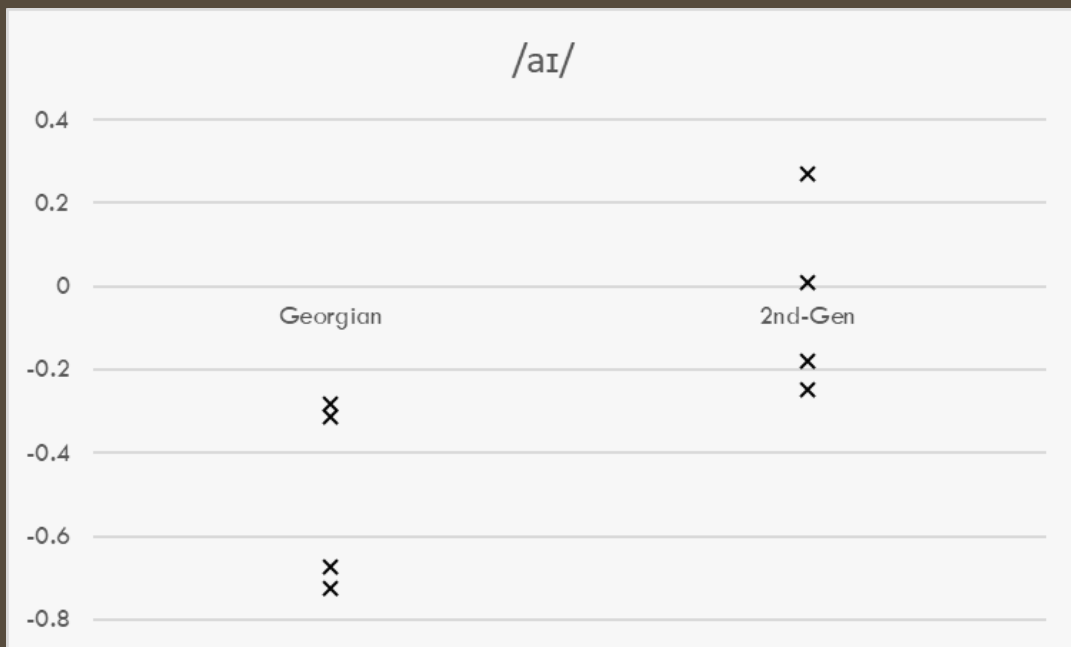
DO THE GROUPS USE DIFFERENT WORDS?
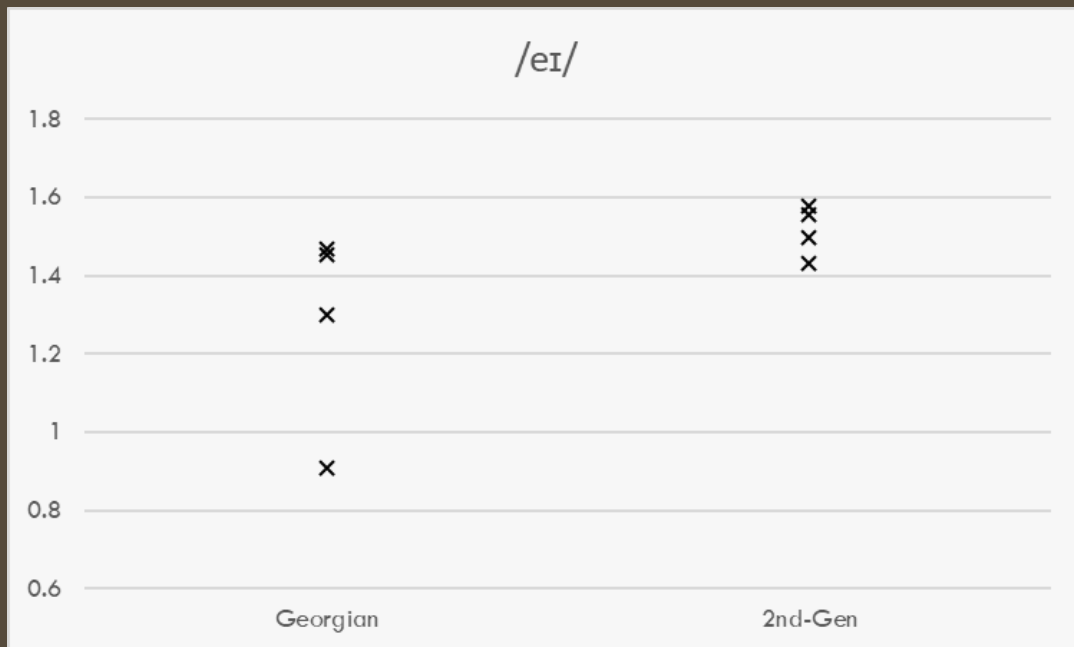

Both Parents from Georgia (Total words spoken: 26934)

like (1754)
i (1355)
and (777)
the (710)
a (607)
to (565)
so (529)
that (451)
was (435)
of (421)
you (400)
it (363)
it's (337)
but (326)
in (313)
just (288)
my (254)
they (219)
have (212)

Both Parents from Africa (Total words spoken: 27132)

like (1971)
i (1526)
and (772)
a (663)
of (634)
the (625)
to (557)
that (529)
so (419)
was (415)
my (361)
just (349)
it (342)
in (337)
but (318)
yeah (268)
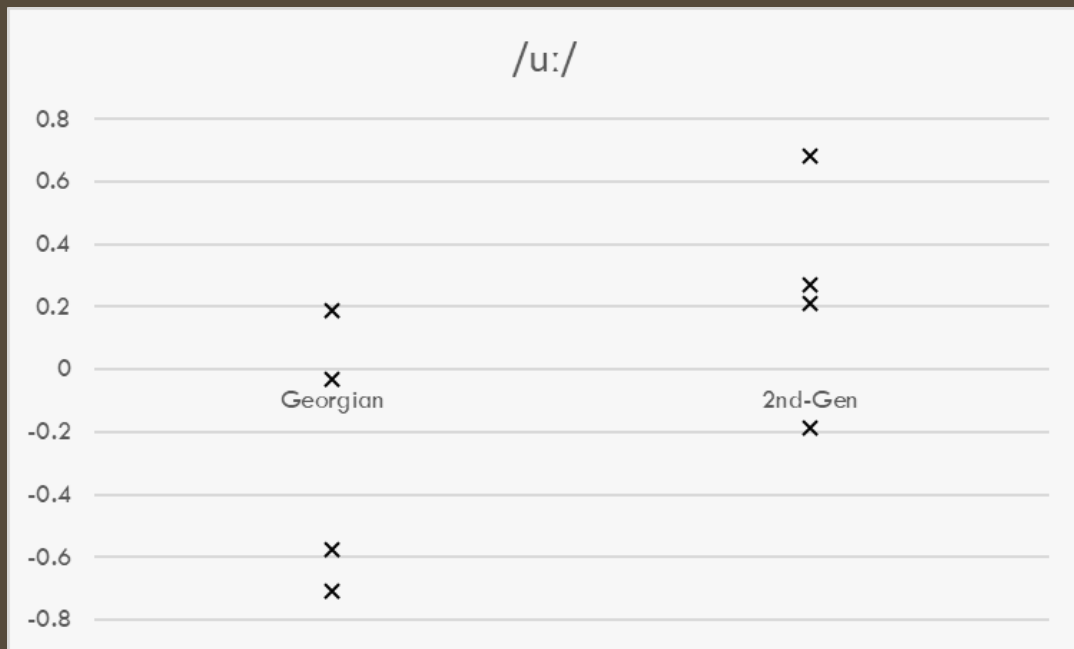it's (252)
i'm (208)
um (196)

GRAPHS (PRIZE/FLEECE)

GRAPHS (FACE/DRESS)

GRAPHS (GOOSE/GOAT)

GRAPHS (KIT/TRAP)

PHONETIC COMPARISONS

Black Georgians:
- Lower PRIZE
- Slightly backer GOAT

Black second-generation Americans:
- Lower DRESS
- Lower KIT
- Lower TRAP

No significant differences between groups with FLEECE, FACE and GOOSE

COMPARISONS WITH NIGERIAN ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Nigerian English speakers:

- Low TRAP (like the second-generation Americans)
- High GOOSE (like the second-generation Americans)
- Slightly backer GOAT (like the second-generation Americans; not pictured)

Table 2 Mean Formant Values of UNILAG Subjects

No.	Vowels	Male UGS F1	Male UGS F2	Female UGS F1	Female UGS F2
1.	<heed> /iː/	420	2159	505	2370
2.	< hid> /ɪ/	396	2111	494	2275
3.	<head>/e/	565	1910	694	2097
4.	<had> /æ/	769	1368	887	1635
5.	<hod> /ɒ/	594	1016	630	1080
6.	<hawed>/ɔː/	658	1232	635	1030
7.	<hood> /ʊ/	503	1507	547	1325
8.	<Who'd> /uː/	547	1533	593	1376

CONSERVATISM
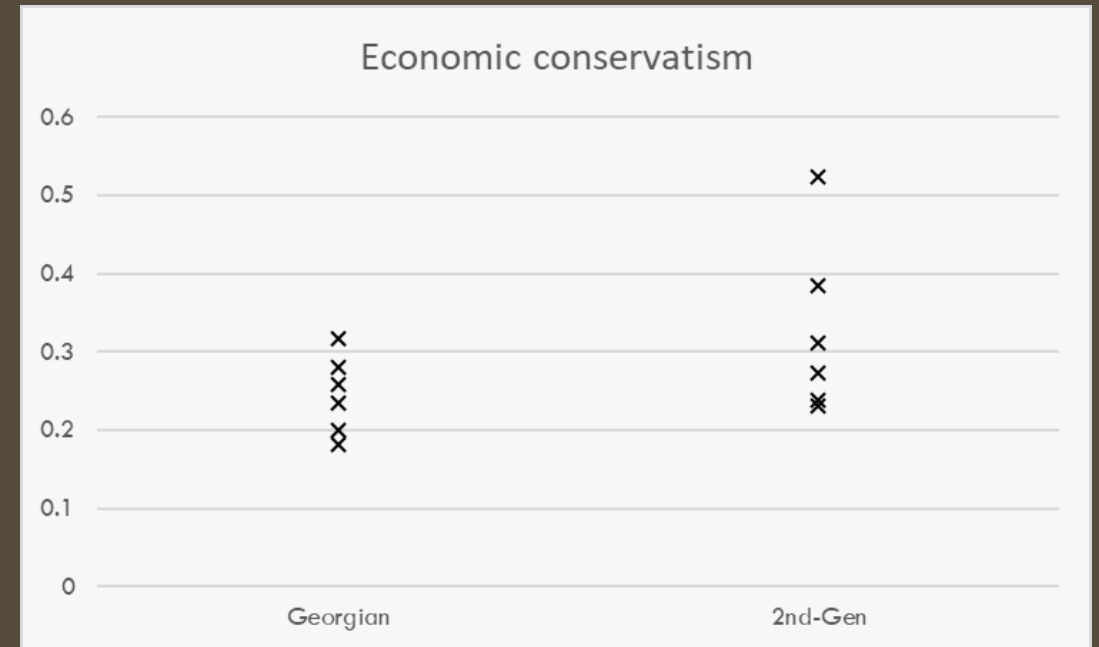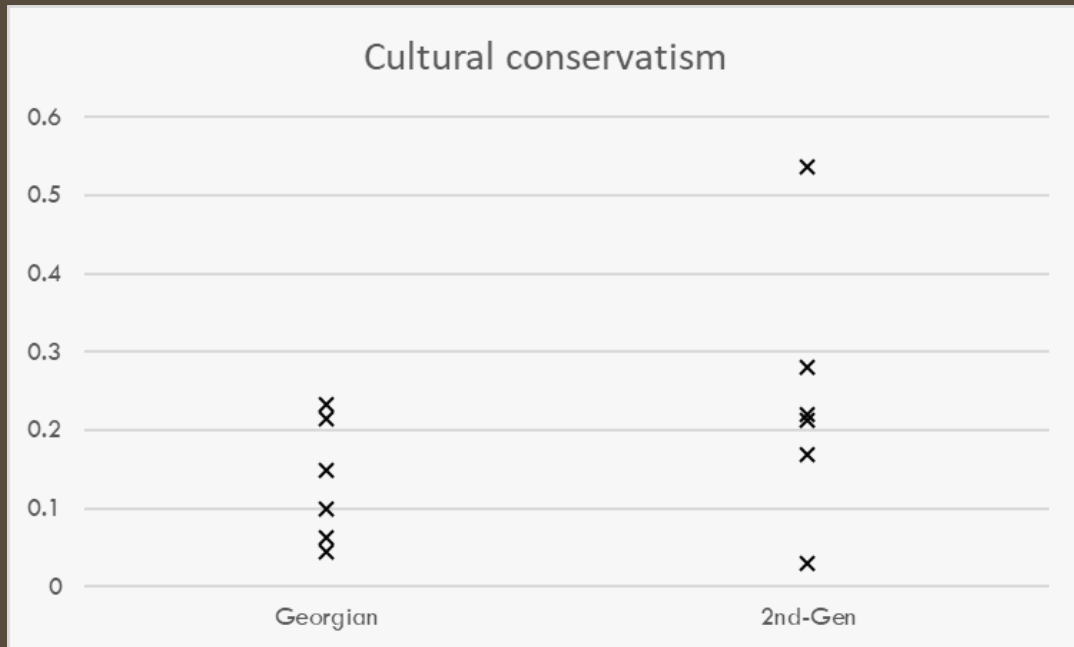
According to Kevin Thomas, an African-American studies professor at UT Austin, Black immigrants lean conservative

IMPLICATIONS

- There seems to be a correlation between the way a person speaks and the way their parents speak, but it is likely that the way other people in their environment speak has more of an effect

- There does not seem to be a correlation between conservatism and immigrant status

REFERENCES

- https://theworld.org/stories/2020/10/13/black-immigrants-small-fast-growing-part-black-electorate

- Analysis of formant frequencies and vowel articulation in the spoken standard Nigerian English of undergraduate - Oluyinka Adebayo, M. (2023).

THANK YOU!