All listeners know that posh Brits don’t say tr[ɑ]p … but some listeners still think that tr[ɑ]p sounds posh.

I. Introduction
Listeners use stored links between social categories (like “British”) and speech sounds like [ə] both to:
- understand what people are saying
- make social judgements about speakers

RESEARCH QUESTION: Do listeners use the same links for understanding speech as for making social judgments?

Brits don’t say /gl/ both to:
- [gl] by [ɑ] for [ɑ] in this stimulus
- [gl] by [ɑ] for [ɑ] in this stimulus

EVERY participant accepts B[o]TH more than TR[ɑ]P.

II. The Variable: the TRAP/BATH split

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>general US English TRAP</th>
<th>BATH</th>
<th>RP and the south of England TRAP</th>
<th>BATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[æ]</td>
<td>[a]</td>
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- phonologically conditioned
  - [æ] > [a] / voiceless fricatives*
    - e.g. bath, glass, length, classy, castle

- but some lexical exceptions
  - e.g. go, esp., classic, hassle

- for UK listeners, backed B[o]TH = posh, southern (higher class, more educated) (Gupta 2005, Lawrence 2014)

Q: Do individual listeners show the same response patterns across tasks?

V. Sentence Version Task
6 talkers
- 4 from south of England, 2 from north
- all perceived as educated & middle-class except one southern “Cockney” speaker

matched guise stimuli
- [ɑ] / [ɑ] guises
- 6 BATH, GAS, TRAP
- 6 ING, TH fillers

- analysis: hierarchical clustering to identify common patterns of response; 3 main clusters found

VIII. Credits
This project was supported by NSF Award #1823972.