

## Language and a Sense of Place

Place has always been central to studies of language variation and change. Since the eighteenth century, dialectologists have been mapping language features according to boundaries – both physical and institutional. In the twentieth century, variationist sociolinguists developed techniques to correlate language use with speakers' orientations to place. More recently, perceptual dialectologists are examining the cognitive and ideological processes involved in language–place correlations and working on ways to understand how speakers mentally process space.

Bringing together research from across the field of language variation, this volume explores the extent of twenty-first-century approaches to place. It features work from both established and influential scholars, and up and coming researchers, and brings language variation research up-to-date.

The volume focuses on four key areas of research: processes of language variation and change across time and space; methods and datasets for regional analysis; perceptions of the local in language research; and ideological representations of place.

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# Language and a Sense of Place

## *Studies in Language and Region*

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Chris Montgomery

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## Preface and Acknowledgements

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This volume followed from a colloquium held at the University of Sheffield in April 2013. The event was in honour of our colleague and mentor, Professor Joan Beal, who retired from academia that same year. The regard in which Joan is held was evident from the enthusiasm for the one-day event; some contributors travelled thousands of miles to celebrate her career. This volume is not a *Festschrift*, but it was inspired by the debate that arose from the colloquium that celebrated Joan's work. It reflects her influence on the field and the regard in which she is held. Joan is cited in every single paper, across every section, with reference to every topic covered.

The structure of the volume also reflects Joan as an academic. Despite being an internationally renowned historical linguist and dialectologist, Joan is a down-to-earth, warm, generous, and supportive mentor. The volume contains contributions from established and influential scholars, but it also includes the work of up and coming research stars. Both editors benefitted enormously from Joan's mentoring and we hope that, by giving voice to some early career researchers, we are emulating the way in which Joan has always championed and supported junior colleagues.

Our first thank you of this volume, then, must be to Professor Joan Beal. Joan, we are grateful for your support, your wisdom, and – most importantly for this volume – your inspiration.

We would also like to thank the contributors to this volume. The volume was not the editors' only joint project: our daughter, Lara, was born as we were nearing completion of the final manuscript. The contributors have been exceedingly patient with two sleep-deprived editors making last minute demands on their time. Thanks to you all for your efficiency and responsiveness. Thanks too, to Helen Barton, at Cambridge University Press, as well as our Content Managers, Neil Ryan and Sarah Lambert, and our Project Manager, Yassar Arafat for their calm and helpful support throughout the project. We also want to thank Kate Lovatt for her careful copy editing and help preparing the final manuscript.

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