**Research:** Linguistic divergence between native L1 speakers and ‘new speakers’ (arpitaniste speakers) of Francoprovençal (FP).

**Design:** Two different sample sites were covered for this study – Lyon (France), and Valais (Switzerland). Samples of at least 30 L1 native speakers were taken from each site, along with a much smaller sample of ‘new speakers’. The sample also includes ‘tardif’ speakers, who began acquiring FP passively from birth, but then began to acquire fully after critical age. Owing to sampling difficulties with ‘new speakers’, just two were available for study in each site. The issue of rigid stratification and balanced samples is mitigated by the pursuit of network analysis here. Therefore, we are asking whether or not weak network ties promote the use of divergent linguistic variants from traditional L1 speaker groups. Informants were recorded for a range of styles, both individually, and in L1/L2 mixed groups. Informants coded as ‘2’ for speaker-type maintain only *weak* network ties, speakers coded as ‘3’ maintain only *dense and multiplex* network ties.

* Random factors: informant, lexical item (Francoprovençal form; Arpitan form; French form)
* Predictors (independent variables): network structure, interview type (group, single), phonetic environment (following, preceding segment/features), stress, gender, age
* Dependent factors: type of (l) – categorical variable

**Variable (l):** Diachronically, in a number of Romance languages, lateral approximants palatalize in onset consonant clusters containing obstruents (without the need for palatalizing triggers /i/ or /e/). For example, vul. Latin GL > *glacie* > [gjatʃo] (Italian), [gjasi] (FP, Lyon). ‘New speakers’ of Arpitan view the palatalized form /ʎ/ as a prestige variant, even though few FP varieties have this phoneme. L1 speakers from Lyon will variably produce /j/ (sensitive to intra-speaker variation). In Valais this variable is largely diatopic – some regions palatalize, some don’t.

**Null-Hypothesis:** The null-hypothesis holds that L2 speakers *do not* diverge linguistically from L1 speakers; that weak network ties *do not* promote the use of arpitaniste prestige forms in interactions with L1 speakers.