WYRED consists of recordings from 180 male speakers, aged between 18 and 30 at the time of recording. All participants are British English speakers from Northern England in the county of West Yorkshire (see Figure 1).

 The 180 speakers are divided between three of the five boroughs within West Yorkshire (Bradford, Kirklees, Wakefield), such that there are 60 speakers from each of the boroughs. Participants were assigned to a borough based on the postcode (zip code) where they grew up and went to primary and secondary school.

All participants are native English speakers who grew up in English-only speaking households and did not speak any other languages. None of the participants reported any speech or hearing impairments. Speakers, however, were not included in the database if they were deemed to have spent a significant period (more than a few years) outside the area, had missing/broken front teeth or facial piercings that affected their speech.

Recruitment largely took place through email advertisements, but also via flyers, in class presentations, Facebook Ads, and referrals. All interested participants registered their interest in participating through an online survey that allowed us to screen for eligible participants. Speakers were then invited to participate via email. All participants were compensated for their participation.

In addition to each participant’s age, WYRED also contains metadata that may be of interest to other researchers. The following metadata has been collected for each participant: relationship status and where their partner was from, where the participants’ parents were from, employment status and type of work, highest level of education, smoker/Non-smoker, left or right handed, height and weight.

Speaking tasks:

All participants were recorded over four different spontaneous speaking tasks: (1) mock police interview, (2) accomplice call, (3) paired conversation, (4) voicemail message. The first two tasks replicate the methodology used in the Dynamic Variability in Speech (DyViS) project and contain spontaneous speech generated by using a map as a visual stimulus in order to encourage the elicitation of specific tokens. Task 3 is a spontaneous conversation with a paired participant (similar age, same gender and region). The final task is an experimental short recording where the participant is asked to leave a voicemail message, with a rough guide as to the information they have to leave, in a time-pressured situation. Further participant instructions for each task are provided in the subsequent sub-sections.

Task 1: Mock Police Interview On entering the sound booth participants were advised that they were about to take part in a mock police interview. The participants were provided with a brief background to the investigation before being presented with written information displayed on an iPad. The information provided them with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the role of the suspect prior to the recording.

Task 2: Accomplice Call

The participants were informed that, having being interviewed by the police, their next task was to phone their friend and accomplice. The purpose of this call was to ensure that the accomplice did not implicate the suspect any further in the crime by contradicting any of the details that the suspect provided to the police. Access to the information from the interview was provided in the form of a storyboard poster attached to a wall in the sound booth. Participants were instructed to be thorough and provide as much of the information on the poster as possible, but advised that the researcher receiving the phone call would ask questions and prompt them.

Task 3: Paired Conversation

The participants were told that they would be left alone to talk to each other, without a researcher present, for 20 minutes. They were provided with topic cards (e.g. work, hobbies, education, hometown), adapted from Wormald (2016). They were requested to avoid mentioning personal details and names of individuals, but advised that any identifiable information recorded would be edited out to ensure the recordings were anonymous. Participants were advised to act naturally and speak as if they were having an ordinary conversation with a friend.

Task 4: Voicemail Message

Participants were reminded of the mock police interview from Task 1. They were then advised that they were about to be arrested and this was their only opportunity to make a phone call. They were instructed to ring their brother, John, and leave a voicemail message. In this voicemail message they had to ask their brother to hide or destroy any incriminating evidence and request that their brother made contact with their accomplice immediately. The participants were provided with four bullet- point examples of evidence that may need to be hidden or destroyed, taken from Task 1, but encouraged to provide further unprompted information in addition to this.

Finally, the participants were advised that the recording should ideally be approximately 2 minutes long and a timer was provided so they could monitor how long they had been speaking for. Recording sessions Recordings were carried out over two separate sessions that were separated by a minimum of one week. Participants recorded the first two tasks on their initial visit, and recorded the final two tasks in their second visit. Session 1 and 2 were recorded a minimum of a week apart for all participants, but due to limitations in recruitment and participant availability some participants attended their second session up to a couple of months later. However, the dates for all recordings are included in the naming convention for all files in the database. Participants had the option to be paired with another participant for Task 3 by the research team or to nominate another participant they were acquainted with to be their partner. The large majority of participants were in fact paired by the research team. Pairings were made of course within boroughs, but the research team also aimed to match speakers who were from areas that were geographically close to each other. This resulted in some pairings having even grown up on the same street. All pairs’ familiarity level (in terms of previous acquaintance) is marked on all Task 3 file naming conventions in terms of NF (non-friend) or F (friend).

Data processing and preparation

The database was recorded in a professional 2.3 by 1.6 meter, purpose-built sound booth. The sound booth is a stand- alone recording studio that has been secured into the floor and ceiling of the lab. The ceiling and interior walls are covered in acoustically transparent fabric and the booth contains laminate flooring. All tasks for each participant were recorded inside the sound booth. Participants sat at a desk inside the sound booth and wore a Sennheiser HSP 4 omnidirectional headband microphone that was situated approximately 2 cm from their mouth. Recordings were made on a Marantz PMD661 MKII Handheld Solid State Recorder in PCM WAV format (44.1kHz, 16 bit). Figure 2 provides a schematic of the recording set up for inside the sound booth.

For Task 1 and Task 3, the Police Interviewer (Research Assistant 1) and the paired partner (respectively) also wore a Sennheiser HSP 4 omnidirectional headband microphone and each were also recorded on a separate Marantz PMD661. For Task 2 and Task 4, participants were recorded in the same format as Task 1 and Task 3, but they were also recorded over a cordless BT Diverse 7410 Plus landline telephone. For Task 2, calls were intercepted and recorded using a Prospect Electronics TC22 telephone balance unit that was connected to both a Mackie micro series 1202 – VLZ line mixer and a Marantz PMD661 MKII Handheld Solid State Recorder. For Task 4, voicemail messages were recorded on a Tiptel 540 answerphone. It is important to note that all equipment was battery operated, aside from the base of the wireless telephone in order to minimize mains interference.

The accomplice’s speech (Research Assistant 2) for Task 2 was the only recording made outside the sound booth. The accomplice was recorded from the far end of the telephone line. The accomplice used a Sennheiser MD4ZI – II handheld mic that was placed on a stand on a desk approximately 10 cm from their mouth that was connected to the Mackie line mixer.