

The *relevant population* and the estimation of typicality in traditional linguistic-phonetic forensic voice comparison

The Bayesian likelihood ratio (LR) is increasingly becoming established as the logically and legally correct framework for the assessment of forensic comparison evidence presented to the Courts. Applied to forensic voice comparison (FVC) evidence, the LR consists of an assessment not only the similarity of linguistic-phonetic parameters (e.g. vowels and consonants) in a pair of known and disputed samples, but also the typicality of those parameters in the wider *relevant population*. The typicality element is assessed relative to a sampled subsection of the *relevant population*.

However, spontaneous speech is an inherently complex form of forensic evidence and varies both between- and within-speakers according to a multitude of factors. This brings with it challenges for the assessment of typicality in FVC casework. This talk investigates theoretical issues relating to how different controls over the *relevant population* affect estimates of strength of evidence. Practical issues concerning the amount of reference data needed will also be considered.