

### **The indexical field of variable noun-phrase number agreement in São Paulo**

Number agreement in noun phrases (NP) is a widely studied variable in Brazilian Portuguese, especially in terms of its correlations with level of education and social class. However, it has never been looked at in terms of sexuality. Inspired by production analyses that suggest that effeminate-sounding men favor the use of standard NP plural marking while masculine-sounding men favor the non-standard, this chapter discusses the results of a perception experiment which concludes that effeminate-sounding men are perceived as less effeminate when they use nonstandard NP plural marking, and that masculine-sounding men are perceived as less masculine (more effeminate) when they use the standard form of plural marking. The discussion explores the notion of indirect indexicality, showing that while male listeners associate perceived level of education to perceived masculinity/effeminacy less indirectly, female listeners associate perceived level of education first with ideas of intelligence and class, and then with masculinity/effeminacy.