







- xamples of stimulus items illustratin the three conditions

creenshot of the C experiment run in raat. he instructions at the top read

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Confusion matrix for stop and affricate consonants in onset position with pin noise.

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Confusion matrix for stop and affricate consonants in onset position with multi-talker babble.

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The most typical confusions in French onset consonants across all three background noise conditions are in voicing and aspiration, primarily in the former. Confusions in minor place are almost nonexistent in the clear condition, with only a handful seen in the noise condition. Confusions in major place are only seen in the babble condition, where all types of confusions are common. These results are similar to the predictions of Ohman, except that voicing was found to be more confusable than aspiration.

The current study should only be seen as the initial part of a larger investigation of the connections between similarity as measured by confusability and similarity as revealed through phonological alternation. More subjects will no doubt need to be run to reach the statistical power needed for confident claims about this connection. However, even with the current findings, it is clear that similarity as measured by confusability shows notable resemblances to the predictions proposed by Ohman's phonological study of consonant similarity in French.

I would like to express my gratitude to Marc Vareille,