# Gabmap – A Web Application for Dialectology

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## Gabmap

> What is Gabmap? (demo)

- > Why Gabmap?
- > Point of Departure
- > Goals
- > Team
- > Problems
- > Agit-Prop
- > Reflections

## What is Gabmap?

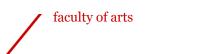
- Map-making facilities (based on Google Earth) available
  - Direct import into Gabmap
  - Not shown here (time)
- > http://www.gabmap.nl

# Why develop Gabmap?

- > Stimulate investigation of exact techniques in dialectology
  - Influence especially younger dialectologists
- Encourage use, but also deeper understanding of these techniques (practitioners still a minority in dialectology)
  - Empower criticism, better-informed debate

## Point of Departure & Goals

- > Point of Departure
  - 14-yr research line, dozens of papers
  - A suite of UNIX facilities (L04), effective but inaccessible for most dialectologists
- > Goals
  - Easy-to-use facility, suitable for classroom
  - Intelligent options for novices (difficult)
  - Feedback wrt to interpretation of results (often misunderstood)



## A Team Effort

#### Groningen (Scientific)

- Charlotte Gooskens (Manager)
- Therese Leinonen (Tutorials)
- Rinke Colen (Film)
- John Nerbonne (Ideas)

#### Meertens (Infrastructure)

Jan Pieter Kunst

Peter Kleiweg (Development)



· Very productive, involved

CLARIN-NL (Feedback)

### **Problems**

- > Disagreements:
  - Scientific development ≠ Development for unpracticed users
- > Standards often incomplete
  - Multiple entries in tables (= multiple responses)

faculty of arts

Most phonetic, phonological and dialectological notions

# Agit-Prop!

- > Recruit users, do not merely develop software
  - Features of general interest (data mining)

- Website, film (screencast), online tutorial, manual
- Journal paper
  - Gabmap A Web Application for Dialectology. *Dialectologia*. Special Issue II, (2011), 65-89.
- Tutorials
  - UvA (Heeringa), Tagung des Forums Sprachvariation (Erlangen), Universität Potsdam, Tvarminne (Finland), Helsinki, Uppsala, ICLAVE (Freiburg), Digital Humanities 2011 (Stanford), Methods in Dialectology (Ontario), LOT 2012 Winter School (Tilburg)
- Collaborations (co-publications) underway on Catalan, Tuscan pronunciation and Estonian lexico-syntax

## Reflections

- > Technically successful now even if incomplete
- It will not be scientifically successful until it attracts more users (I want to see 20 papers published on the basis of Gabmap results.)
  - A textbook on dialectology using Gabmap would be great (but time consuming)
- > The source code of Gabmap is open to all, but
  - Open source development practices were not followed, making it difficult for others to modify Gabmap.