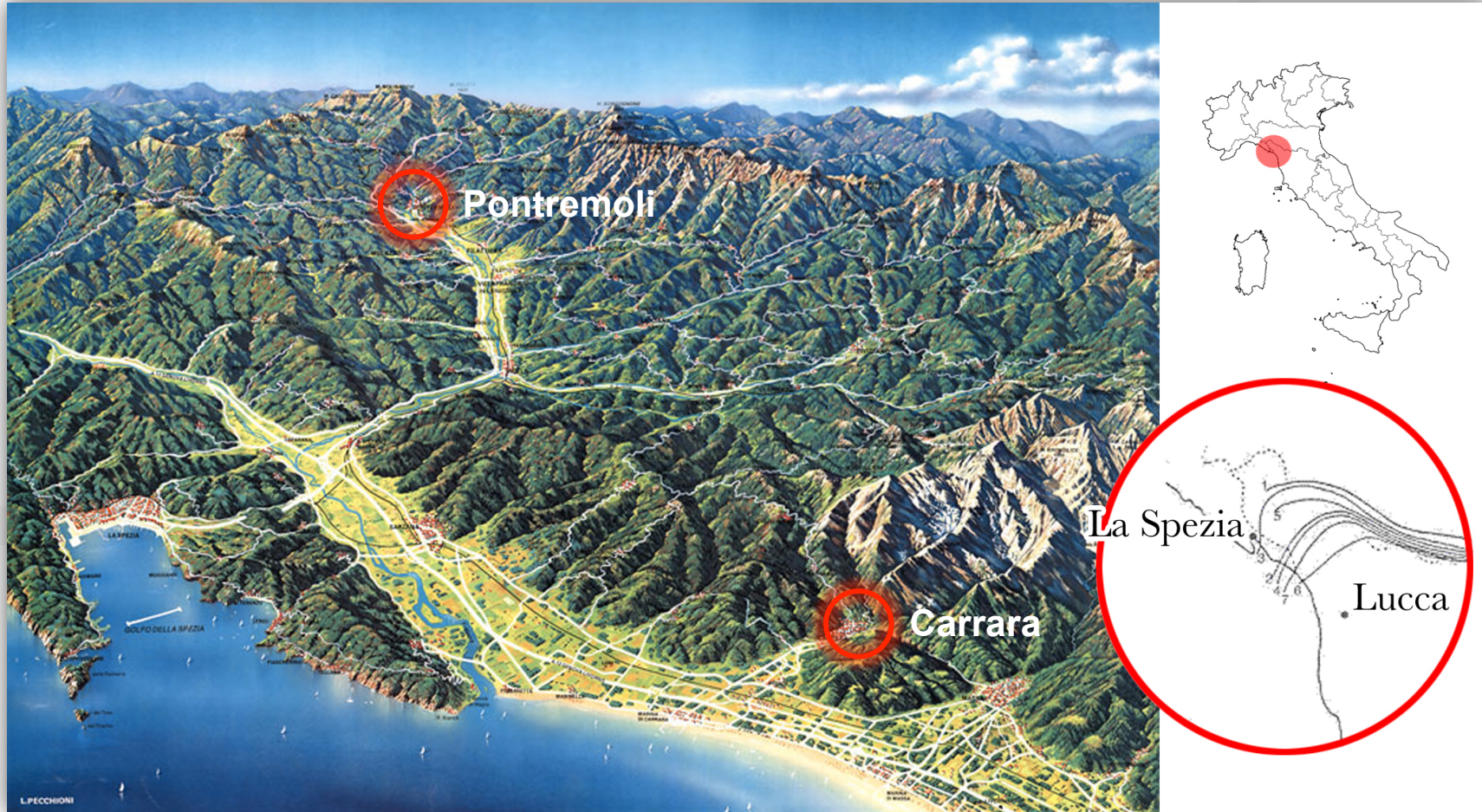


# Vowel reduction and epenthesis in Lunigiana

viz. some reasons to study Italian dialects



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# Unstressed vowel reduction and vowel insertion through time, and space

INITIAL STAGE (proto-Romance)					INITIAL STAGE (Carrarese)					
O	N <sub>1</sub>	O	O	N <sub>2</sub>	O	N <sub>1</sub>	O	O	N <sub>2</sub>	
m	Δ	g	r	UA	m	Δ	g	r		
['m	a:	g	r	o]	['m	a:	g <sup>(ə)</sup>	˚r	Ø]	
INTERMEDIATE STAGE					INTERMEDIATE STAGE					
O	N <sub>1</sub>	O	O	N <sub>2</sub>	O	N <sub>1</sub>	O	N <sub>Eb</sub>	O	N <sub>2</sub>
m	Δ	g	r	A	m	Δ	g	A	r	
['m	a:	g	r	ə]	['m	a:	g	ə	r	Ø]
FINAL STAGE (Carrarese)					FINAL STAGE (Pontremolese)					
O	N <sub>1</sub>	O	O	N <sub>2</sub>	O	N <sub>1</sub>	O	N <sub>Eb</sub>	O	N <sub>2</sub>
m	Δ	g	r		m	Δ	g	Δ	r	
['m	a:	g <sup>(ə)</sup>	˚r	Ø]	['m	a:	g	a	r	Ø]

Carrarese represents the **diachronically preceding** stage of Pontremolese



# Diatopic variation $\approx$ Diachronic variation $\approx$ Grammaticalization

or from **the body** into **the mind**

- “[...] a phonetic phenomenon that is at first exhaustively determined by **extragrammatical factors** (physics and physiology) becomes even more deeply **embedded in the grammar** of a language, first as a language-specific gradient process of phonetic implementation [...] later as a categorical phonological rule [...] until it eventually escapes phonological control altogether [...]” (Bermúdez-Otero 2014)
- by analyzing the geographical micro-variation of a given sound pattern, we can test which grammatical level the pattern reached in a given linguistic community, namely **what** those **speakers know** about it and **how** this **knowledge is represented** in their mind. We can thus deepen our understanding of **how an object belonging to the physical world**, such as a sound, **enters our symbolic system of knowledge**
- “the smallest **differences between dialects** as manifestations of **universal principles** underlying the organization of language systems” (Hinskens, Hermans & Van Oostendorp 2014: 2)