

EMCA news

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION SECTION ON
ETHNOMETHODOLOGY AND
CONVERSATION ANALYSIS

Spring / 2011

<http://asanet.org/sections/ethnomethodology.cfm>

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2010 - 2011 Section Officers

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On April 21st, Harold Garfinkel died. Please join us for a memorial celebrating his life and work at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas:

Sunday August 21, from 8-10pm in the Trevi room, Caesar's Palace

New York Times obituary for Harold Garfinkel, by Bruce Webber - published May 3, 2011

Harold Garfinkel, a Common-Sense Sociologist, Dies at 93

Harold Garfinkel, an innovative sociologist who turned the study of common sense into a dense and arcane discipline, creating one of his field's most challenging and fruitful branches of inquiry, died April 21 at his home in Pacific Palisades, California. He was 93.



The cause was congestive heart failure, said his wife, Arlene.

Mr. Garfinkel was a professor emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was affiliated with the sociology department for more than half a century. By the time he became the faculty member in 1954, however, he was already concentrating on work that was in conflict with prevailing sociological theory, which focused on how societal rules and norms influenced behavior and created and shaped a social order. Mr. Garfinkel's work sought to illustrate how members of society collaborate in creating and shaping a social order.

c o n t i n u e d ...

Harold Garfinkel - by Jason Jimerson *see Garfinkel, p g. 3*

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- Spotlight on Publications

Submissions for the next issue
(Summer / ASA edition)
should be sent

By: August 01, 2011

To: Geoff Raymond
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Section Announcements

Looking forward: Las Vegas - 2011

2011 American Sociological
Association Annual Meeting
Caesars Palace - Las Vegas
Nevada

August 20-23, 2011



1st Pollner Prize recipient:

Darin Weinberg

for his book:

*"Of Others Inside: Insanity, Addiction
And Belonging in America"*

The EMCA Publication Award:

Will be announced
at the Annual Meeting

Graduate Student Paper Award:

**Edward Reynolds,
PHD Candidate**

*Journalism and Communications
The University of Queensland*

"Epistemics in Conflict: Enticing a
Challengeable in Protest Arguments"
is the winner for 2011!

**Awards will be presented at
the EMCA Section Business
meeting at the Annual
Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada**

*Details on the program and
the EMCA event(s) schedule
to follow in the next issue*

*Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section
of the American Sociological Association*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Professor Wes Sharrock
University of Manchester

The number of scholars writing to nominate Professor Sharrock for this award was truly remarkable; indeed there are so many that it is impossible to represent them adequately in this newsletter. Following are some brief excerpts:

"Wes has always been a truly amazing scholar and teacher. His breadth and depth are just unfathomable to us mere mortals! From his early papers in ethno. and CA to his books on Kuhn and cognitive science, he is perhaps the finest intellectual of his generation in our fields of interest. All of us (and there are so many!) who have worked with him, as co-authors or as co-workers on so many diverse projects, can attest to one simple fact - when you have Wes on board, the work gets so much better, and is so much deeper."

-- Jeff Coulter, *Professor of Sociology & Associate Faculty
Member in Philosophy at Boston University*

"Without doubt, Wes is an academic and sociologist *par excellence*. It was Wes' deep grounding in and understanding of classical Sociology that enabled him, right at the outset, to appreciate the way that Garfinkel's ethnomethodological programme both built on and challenged that tradition. Wes was the first among those sociologists in the UK encountering Garfinkel's writings to see that the objective was a re-framing of Parsons' account of social action based upon Schutz's interpretation of Husserl. Thus, right at the beginning, we can see his lifelong pre-occupation with the twin themes of social theory and philosophy. Having discerned the importance of Ethnomethodology as a development within Sociology, Wes very soon became its intellectual leader in the UK and among the foremost proponents of this approach in the world. A vibrant group of scholars formed around him at Manchester and an academic community was created which has survived under his tutelage ever since. It has been the heartbeat and nerve centre of Ethnomethodology in the UK, with an increasing diaspora across the world. It is fair to say that without Wes, Ethnomethodology in the UK and worldwide would not have been the same."

-- Professor R. J. Anderson, *University of Nottingham*

*continued ... see **Sharrock** on page 3*

A n n o u n c e m e n t s ... continued from p.2

L o o k i n g f o r w a r d : L a s V e g a s - 2 0 1 1

G A R F I N K E L ... continued from p.1

At U.C.L.A., he developed theories that coalesced into a sociological subdiscipline known as ethnomethodology, which is concerned with the pool of shared knowledge and shared reasoning procedures that members of a society use to respond to the circumstances in which they find themselves.

The idea had come to him, he explained, as he was working on a study of jury deliberations. He discovered that though jurors paid dutiful attention to judges' instructions and the ways of thinking that the law prescribed, they made greater use of a different kind of logic: an assumed logic, which they expressed in phrases like, "Anyone could see" that such-and-such had happened. Mr. Garfinkel concluded that "a person is 95 percent juror before he comes near the court," and his life's work became focused on the common elements of knowledge and reasoning that citizens bring with them into the jury room — and everywhere else.

Mr. Garfinkel was sometimes likened to a quantum physicist because, in effect, he suggested that the fundamental building blocks of a social order were much smaller and much harder to observe than had been previously believed. Rules were not the smallest particles of social order, he found; rather, the rules themselves would be impossible without the bits of knowledge, the gestures and the methods of reasoning that allow people to communicate.

"At the time, most sociologists believed that if you could specify the rules people lived by, you could predict their behavior," said John Heritage, a professor of sociology at U.C.L.A. and the author of the 1984 book-length study "Garfinkel and Ethnomethodology." "He dropped a bomb on that idea, by saying rules need to be specified and interpreted in light of real world situations."

"His point of view wasn't that rules aren't important, but that how they get interpreted and applied is a matter of mutual negotiation. We have to have common resources for any form of coordinated action..."

*continued ... see **COMMON SENSE** on page 5*

In honor of Harold Garfinkel

The EMCA section will hold a memorial in his honor at the ASA's annual meeting in Las Vegas. Details will be provided in the Summer Newsletter.

The 10th Conference of the International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis will also celebrate the originality, significance and fruitfulness of the work of Harold Garfinkel. Specific events will be held to honor his legacy: a tribute ceremony, workshops on his research and an exhibition displaying testimonies of his influence around the world. You will find the program of these activities as well as information on how to contribute on the conference website.

SHARROCK ... continued from p.2

"Largely through Wes' initiative, Manchester became the leading center for ethnomethodological work in the UK and it has remained one of the major centers internationally... Wes has shown himself to be one of the most intellectually honest and uncompromising scholars in sociology today."

--Mike Lynch

"The large number of postgraduates who have been privileged to study under him - many of whom have gone on to careers in research - the colleagues, both in sociology and in other disciplines, here and abroad, who have benefitted from association with him, will all, I am sure, attest to the privilege it has been to be part of Wes' own intellectual explorations. Unselfish and unstinting in the support he gives to those willing to engage in intellectual debate with him, Professor Sharrock is more than deserving of an award such as this. Moreover, he will add lustre to the award for it will be a recognition of an exceptional scholar and an exceptional person."

--- Emeritus Professor John A. Hughes

CONGRATULATIONS
Professor Wes Sharrock on this most deserved recognition!

WHAT'S COMING UP



CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, & WORKSHOPS

The 10th Conference of the International Institute for
Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis
University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
July 10 - 14, 2011

The Conference promotes the study of practical action and social interaction, and provides an international forum for researchers working in the areas of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis.

The program includes four (4) plenary lectures:

- Christian Heath & Paul Luff (King's College London)
- Douglas W. Maynard (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- Wes Sharrock (University of Manchester)
- Marja-Leena Sorjonen (University of Helsinki)

as well as more than one hundred paper presentations in panels and individual sessions, data sessions and a poster exhibition. George Psathas (Boston University), Honorary President of the Institute, will also be participating in the conference.

2011 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting Social Conflict: Multiple Dimensions and Arenas

Caesars Palace - Las Vegas Nevada

August 20-23, 2011

The 106th ASA Annual Meeting will be held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Preliminary Program Schedule is now available online. Registration is now open, and the last day to register at the reduced rate is **July 13, 2011**. Blocks of sleeping rooms for the ASA meeting attendees – contact the resort for details.

University of York: Short Course 'An Introduction to Conversation Analysis'

October 10-12, 2011

Paul Drew and Merran Toerien

The course will be limited to no more than 15 participants who will work intensively with the two tutors to develop basic skills in transcription and in understanding the conversation analytic approach to talk as action. We will introduce participants to key analytic tools and methodological techniques in analysing data, including making collections of phenomena and analysing interactional patterns and practices, on the basis of those collections. The course will be organised through talks and practical activities and exercises, with an emphasis on hands-on work with data; an indicative reading list and course reader will also be provided. For more information, please visit:

<https://store.york.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?catid=199&modid=1&compid=1>

... AT A GLANCE ...

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L(h)II XI:
Laughter and humor in interaction,
2011 International Conference
Emerson College - Boston, MA
June 23-24, 2011

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12th International
Pragmatics Conference
Manchester, UK
July 3-8, 2011

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10th Conference of the International
Institute for Ethnomethodology and
Conversation Analysis
University of Fribourg, Switzerland
July 10-14, 2011

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**Deadline: early registration for
ASA ANNUAL MEETING
July 13, 2011**

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3rd International Conference on
Conversation Analysis and Clinical
Encounters

University of York, UK
12-14 July 2011

&

Early Career Workshop,
University of York, UK
15-16 July 2011

* * *

**2011 American Sociological
Association Annual Meeting**
Las Vegas, Nevada
August 20-23, 2011

'At a Glance' ...continued on p.5

Our special thanks to **Paul ten Have** (<http://www.paultenhave.nl/EMCA.htm>) for providing some of this information

...of human beings, and we use these common resources just to exist in a shared world. It's a fundamental part of the human condition."

Mr. Garfinkel's seminal work, published in 1967 under the title "Studies in Ethnomethodology," was a series of essays that examined a number of seemingly disparate situations to expose the common-sense assumptions that are needed to make social life work.

He wrote, for example, about the plight of a transgendered individual living in a world in which most people presume that someone's gender identity is a simple matter of male or female. In another instance, he wrote about an experiment in which school counselors gave random answers to students' questions, observing that the students resisted the notion that their questions were not being answered responsibly; instead, he found, they manipulated their own logic to allow them to digest the responses as intelligible.

He wrote about so-called "breaching" experiments in which the subjects' expectations of social behavior were violated; for example, a subject playing tic tac toe was confronted with an opponent who made his marks on the lines dividing the spaces on the game board instead of in the spaces themselves. Their reactions — outrage, anger, puzzlement, etc. — helped demonstrate the existence of underlying presumptions that constitute social life.

"The book had an influence far beyond the particulars of what he wrote about," Mr. Heritage said. "Not only did it deal with rules and language, which are fundamental elements of sociological study, but it reached across many fields: cognitive science, artificial intelligence, philosophy. You wouldn't get any argument if you said it was among the 10 most important books in sociology in the 20th century."

Mr. Garfinkel was born on Oct. 29, 1917, in Newark, where his father, Abraham, ran a small business selling housewares. He studied business and accounting at the University of Newark (now Rutgers University, Newark). He received a master's degree in sociology from the University of North Carolina and served in the Army, as a noncombatant, during World War II. Afterward he earned a Ph.D. at Harvard, where he studied with the noted sociologist Talcott Parsons. Early in his career he taught at Princeton and Ohio State.

In addition to his wife, the former Arlene Steinbach, whom he married in 1945, Mr. Garfinkel's survivors include a daughter, Leah Hertz, of Glen Echo, Md.; a son, Mark Garfinkel, of Goleta, Calif.; and three grandsons. While he was at the University of North Carolina, Mr. Garfinkel wrote a short story, "Color Trouble," which was published in Opportunity magazine and subsequently anthologized in "The Best Short Stories, 1941." The story, about the persecution of a young black woman on a Virginia bus, was notable for its clarity of language, something Mr. Garfinkel's sociological work was not known for.

As Professor Heritage wrote in the opening sentence of his book, "Notwithstanding his world renown, Harold Garfinkel is a sociologist whose work is more known about than known."

A version of this article appeared in print on May 9, 2011, on page D8 of the New York edition.

additional information can be found at: <http://www.today.ucla.edu/portal/ut/fbb-post.aspx?id=4076>

WHAT'S COMING UP ... AT A GLANCE ...



... continued from p.4...

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ECREA Interpersonal Communication
and Social Interaction Conference
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Sept 8-9, 2011

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1st Meeting of the Language and Social
Interaction Working Group (LANSI)
Teachers College,
Columbia University, New York City
October 14-15, 2011

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Discourse <> Communication <>
Conversation:
An Anniversary Conference
Celebrating 25 years of the
Discourse and Rhetoric Group (DARG)
and 10 years of the
Culture and Media Analysis Research
Group (CAMARG)
Loughborough University, UK
March 21-23, 2012

Our special thanks to **Paul ten Have**
(<http://www.paultenhavenl.nl/EMCA.htm>)
for providing some of this information

Jobs, Fellowships, & Studentships



INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

The *Lancaster University, UK*, mobilities lab at is seeking a **Senior Research Associate** to work with an interdisciplinary team to shape socio-technical innovation in crisis response.

The *Palo Alto Research Center* is seeking a(n) **Ethnography Researcher / Practitioner / Project Manager** - will be based in Japan.

The *University of Bristol - School of Social and Community Medicine, UK* is seeking a **Research Associate** to use CA methods to examine the development of therapeutic alliance between therapist and patient engaged in online CBT.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS, PHD POSITIONS, AND STUDENTSHIPS

A Postdoctoral Fellowship in Conversation Analysis involving Decision-Making, Diet, and Cost Discussions in Veterinary Medicine is being offered by the *Department of Population Medicine - Ontario Veterinary College*.

A Post-Doc in Interactional Linguistics is being offered by the *Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*.

A PhD position in Sociology (100%) is being offered by the *Department of Social Sciences, University of Fribourg, Switzerland*.

A fully funded International PhD Studentship is being offered at the *Brunel University, UK*, regarding AutoMedia: family life, interaction and media use in the car.

A PhD Scholarship with CA possibilities is being offered by the *Department of Sociology, University of Leicester, U.K.*

The *Department of Communication at the University of New Hampshire* invites applicants for the **non-tenure track**, benefits-eligible position of **Lecturer** in Interpersonal Communication for the 2011-12 academic year. The Department seeks an individual with expertise in social approaches to interpersonal studies. The successful candidate will teach existing courses at the undergraduate level, including Introduction to Interpersonal Communication, a mid-level analysis of language and social interaction course, and possibly courses in his or her own areas of specialty. The teaching load is six courses per academic year. Ph.D or ABD preferred; highly qualified candidates with master's degrees will be considered. Send a letter of application, vita, statement of teaching philosophy, sample syllabi, teaching evaluations, and three letters of recommendation to Professor Mardi Kidwell, Department of Communication, University of New Hampshire, Horton Social Science Center, 20 Academic Way, Durham, NH 03824. The review application will begin **May 31, 2011** and continue until the position is filled.

* * *

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Boston, MA) seeks a person with a background in Conversation Analysis or discourse analysis, or a closely related background, for the following position. Job Description: The selected candidate will serve as an instructor for Interpersonal Communication (IPC) in the Health Professions or Introduction to Interpersonal Communication, the two versions of IPC courses that will be offered in 2011-2012, and in 2012-2013; will collaborate with curriculum coordinator for IPC and other IPC faculty to ensure consistent attention to course learning goals and delivery methods, and will be available to provide office hours for curriculum assistance to students in these courses. Requirements: A PhD degree in interpersonal communication or a closely related field (e.g., micro-sociology, linguistic anthropology); ABD candidates near degree completion may be considered; college teaching experience and evidence of teaching effectiveness in the area of interpersonal communication and commitment to undergraduate education. Preference will be given to candidates with a qualitative approach to interpersonal communication understood as culturally-contexted social interaction, and to those whose research and teaching focuses on interpersonal communication in health care settings. Applicants for the position must use the links provided on the following website: <<http://tinyurl.com/6zq37sg>>.

Our special thanks to **Paul ten Have** (<http://www.paultenhave.nl/EMCA.htm>) for providing some of this information

S p o t l i g h t o n P u b l i c a t i o n s



INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES

Jiri Nekvapil, ed. (2010) 'Ethnomethodological Inspirations', *Czech Sociological Review*, 46/4 (September) The whole issue is available at: <http://sreview.soc.cas.cz/cs/issue/current> [texts in Czech and Slovak, abstracts in English]

Carly. W. Butler, Richard Fitzgerald, Rod Gardner, eds.: Ethnomethodological Approaches to communications, *Australian Journal of Communication*, 36/3

ARTICLES



Garcia, Angela Cora. 2010. The Role of Interactional Competence in Mediation. *Conflict Resolution Quarterly* 28(2): 205-228.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/crq.v28.2/issuetoc>

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES

Qualitative Sociology (2011; 34:221-261) has published a Symposium on a paper called "Pragmatism And Ethnomethodology" by Mustafa Emirbayer and Douglas W. Maynard, with comments by John Heritage, Anne Warfield Rawls, Louis Quéré & Cédric Terzi, and Christopher Winship & Christopher Muller; available online at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/k38g75u5h089/>

A special issue of *Novitas-ROYAL* (Research on Youth and Language, 2011; volume 5, issue 1) on "Conversation Analysis in Applied Linguistics", eds. Paul Seedhouse and Olcay Sert, is now available online, free-of-charge at <http://novitasroyal.org/>

A special issue in honor of Gail Jefferson, edited by: Johannes Wagner & Monika Vöge on [Laughter in Interaction](#), *Journal of Pragmatics*, (2010) 42/6: 1469-1576

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2011 Section Membership Form

For ASA membership information and to join -or- renew online:
http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/join_or_renew/join

2010 ASA Membership Dues:

___ Regular:	\$26 - \$189
___ (sliding scale, based on income)	
___ Associate:	\$45
___ Student:	\$20
___ Emeritus:	\$45
___ International:	\$45

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Mail to:
Membership Services
American Sociological Association
1430 K Street, NW - Suite 600
Washington DC 20005

_____ I am an ASA member and want to join the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section. Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 for 2010 section dues (\$5.00 for students). Make checks payable to **American Sociological Association** (Please put "EMCA Section Dues" on the memo line of your check).