

EMCA NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the American Sociological Association's section on
Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

Message From the Chairs

Jay Meehan and
Tanya Stivers



It was terrific to see so many members of our community turn out for our first virtual ASA. While we all missed the chance to go for a walk in the San Francisco hills, grab some Chinese food or a coffee together, it was still a good opportunity to hear about the work going on in our section. We had a total of four panels and our attendance was upwards of 35 people in some sessions. Undeterred by the inconvenience of being awake at odd hours, our members from Europe and Asia were amazingly good sports joining us at 3am and midnight at various points. This is certainly what we love about our EMCA members-- dedication!

Speaking of membership, we sound like a broken record but the voices keep changing: we are still lower than we should be in membership despite so much dedication and enthusiasm! If only we each counted for two members. Alas, ASA doesn't agree. Further, we learned at our Section leader orientation that our low membership numbers will automatically place our section under "probationary review" beginning this Fall. The ASA assesses sections on both quantitative and qualitative measures and we are confident that we can make many good arguments for our existence and emergence from this status (however much we all may enjoy deviant status). But membership numbers also have other important benefits such as additional program slots at the annual meeting and also more dollars allocated to our annual budget.

Therefore, we would love for one of your random acts of kindness in 2021 to be a gift membership to the section for a student (or an ASA membership if you would like). And, if you can please each grab 1-2 colleagues in your respective departments and ask them to join our section as a friend/ally, this would really help get our section out of jeopardy. For that, you'd earn our immense gratitude for at least all of 2021!

As new co-chairs, we are busy learning from the very capable Anne Rawls and Morana Alac. Thank you to both of them for keeping our section on the rails and inspiring us. Thank you also to our board members for taking on this new job.

Finally, thank you to our new newsletter editors, Kristella Montiegel and Luis-Manuel Olguin. This dynamic duo is taking the baton from our excellent and dedicated communications editor, Don Everhart. Thank you, Don, for your hard work across several years. Finally, we look forward to ideas that you as members might have to provide important services to our community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Please visit our
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Check out our
Facebook page!

Join us for our Fall Webinar!

Translating EMCA Work to Non-EMCA/Non-academic Audiences

Led by Professor Gary David (Bentley University)

November 10, 2020



With the interest of opening up more spaces for section members to interact with each other beyond the ASA annual meeting, and motivated by the virtualization of most academic life in the last few months due to the pandemic, we will be hosting a series of webinars with topics of interest for student and faculty members. Professor and certified clinical sociologist, Gary David, has kindly agreed to lead our first webinar on a topic that pertains those preparing to move into the job market or who are currently working at the intersection of different disciplines or outside academia: How to translate EMCA work to non-EMCA/non-academic audiences.

The webinar will take place over Zoom on **Tuesday, November 10**. We will be sending more information as we move closer to the event's date.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Black Lives Matter: Ethnomethodological and Conversation Analytic Studies of Race and Systemic Racism in Everyday Interaction

(2020) Taylor and Francis

Anne Warfield Rawls (Bentley University, Universität Siegen)

Kevin Whitehead (University of California, Santa Barbara; University of the Witwatersrand)

Waverly Duck (University of Pittsburgh)

Getting Others to Do Things: A Pragmatic Typology of Recruitments

(2020) Language Science Press

Simeon Floyd (Universidad San Francisco de Quito)

Giovanni Rossi (University of California, Los Angeles)

N. J. Enfield (University of Sydney)

CALL FOR 2021 EMCA SECTION AWARDS

The EMCA section is requesting nominations for the following awards to be given at the 2021 ASA Annual meeting in Chicago.

Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship

This award recognizes those who have made distinguished lifetime career contributions to the fields of ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. To nominate an individual for this award, please submit the following: 1) A letter detailing the nominee's contributions to EMCA; 2) Relevant supporting materials, including a list of the nominee's publications; and 3) At least two additional external letters speaking to the person's contributions and impact on the field(s). Please send nominations to Virginia Gill (Chair) (vtgill@ilstu.edu) by March 1, 2021.

See next
page for
more !

EMCA Distinguished Book Award

This award recognizes an outstanding publication contributing to ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. The 2021 award will be given to a book. Eligible books for the 2021 award must be published between September 1, 2018 and February 28, 2021, inclusively. Authors can submit their own publications, or nominations can be made on their behalf. Committee members may also make their own nominations. Nominations should include: 1) full bibliographic information on the nominated book; and 2) a PDF copy (preferable) or a hard copy of the book; or a link to a website where the book can be downloaded in full at no charge. Please send nominations to Kevin Whitehead (Chair) (kwhitehead@soc.ucsb.edu) by March 1, 2021.

EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award

This award recognizes an outstanding publication contributing to ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. The 2021 award will be given to a paper. Eligible papers for the 2021 award must be published between September 1, 2018 and February 28, 2021, inclusively. Authors can submit their own publications, or nominations can be made on their behalf. Committee members may also make their own nominations. Please send nominations to David Gibson (Chair) (dgibson1@nd.edu) by March 1, 2021.

For a list of previous award winners, [click here!](#)



Student Spotlight: Andre Buscariolli (UC - Santa Barbara)

My trajectory as a conversation analyst began at the University of Helsinki. While pursuing a master's degree in Social Psychology, I had the privilege to work with Kari Vesala, who introduced me to Discursive Psychology. I also attended a very insightful class by Anssi Peräkylä called "Goffman's Theory of Social Encounters." Both experiences consolidated my interests in interactional perspectives in Sociology. In order to keep pursuing these interests, I began my graduate studies at UC Santa Barbara. I have been working with Kevin Whitehead and Geoff Raymond since I entered the graduate program in 2018, and we are currently beginning a collaboration with Albert Jay Meehan from Oakland University to examine institutional and interactional practices of policing.

As a Ph.D. student at UC Santa Barbara, I use Conversation Analysis to analyze dashcam videos of police encounters. Part of my research examines how phenomena often attributed to psychological mechanisms (e.g., mental illness, emotions, etc.) relate to the structural organization of social encounters. For instance, drawing from Maynard's recent contributions to the study of autistic spectrum disorder, I have identified forms of social organization by reference to which civilians' behaviors are found to be problematic in particular ways during police encounters, thus making them vulnerable to the inference that mental illness is at play.

I'm also interested in Ethnomethodology, Science and Technology Studies, and Critical Data Studies. Another project I have been working on uses a single case analysis to discuss how police officers use big data as documentary evidence of broader patterns of criminal activity, thus rendering a suspect's modes of activity a docile object. I hope this project will further illuminate the practices by which big data and algorithms are employed as epistemic objects to make sense of events (see, for instance, Ziewitz's 2017 article in *Big Data & Society*)

abuscariolli@ucsb.edu

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Kornelia Engert (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Hi to everyone and thank you for having me on this faculty spotlight! When visiting and presenting at the EMCA section sessions last year, in New York, I got a vital impression of the international outreach of this welcoming section. As a guest from the University of Mainz, in Germany, I participated at the ASA annual meeting for the first time and became a new member of the section. How lucky I was to be there and meet other EMCA scholars from around the globe: Australia, Japan, China, UK, amongst others. Looking back on this event, this year, seeing New York in a different light and San Francisco, and many other centers, too, leaves me unsteady. Somehow, though, the perplexity seems to be more in terms of 'place' than of 'event', as it shifts the commonplaceness of bushfires, epidemics and the destruction of homes and lives only closer to a very western understanding of where the 'centers' are.



After a family re-location to a new city and months of closed down child-care-centers, I spent most of 2020 in a 'small world': taking some walks or turning on the Webcam and microphones for digital seminars, team-meetings over how to design 'take-home'-tests and eventually seeing some colleagues and students back on campus in July, before summer break. There, they put up tents for examinations in physical presence-at-distance. The tent, in every respect, makes up an elementary form and a standard global response for bolstering crisis: tents for patients, for refugees, for homeless..., for examinees - yet not for 'Oktoberfest', this year.

Though it feels untimely, I wanted to share some other thoughts, too. I am preparing a reworked edition of my dissertation, which documents some research into the 'past times' of doing social inquiry. When researchers would do fieldwork in crowded spaces, filled with lifeforms of haptic, chanting and embracing folks. When they would talk to and listen in interviews to all sorts of generations and affiliations in 'centers of communication'. And when they would still meet and discuss their research with open doors and many audiences, giving their insights and perspectives before proper publication. When they would still struggle finding ways of putting these dense social worlds and practices into words for writing academic publications - well before 'data' would 'speak for itself'. This study into the 'Body of Knowledge in Social Inquiry' takes up some rather classic EMCA themes (at least this is, what ethnographers keep telling me and which makes up part of their critique). It is forthcoming 2021 in the series "Directions in EMCA", edited by Andrew Carlin and K. Neil Jenkins with Routledge. Through this work, I have come across EMCA in the first place and beyond influential written works it has ever been "the richness of other people" (quoting Goodwin), their generosity, critique, training, patience and openness that sustained the work all along. This richness came from various sources and fields such as EMCA, ethnography, social studies of science, gesture studies, praxeology, sociology of education, studies in media and art, and others. Hoping to come across you and your work soon, on the 'shop-floors', online and offline, hoping to be there myself, and encounter many more.

kornelia.engert@uni-mainz.de

<https://knowledge.sociology.uni-mainz.de/engert/>

PS: My academic profiles online are not well taken care of. Those platforms do a vital and contemporary 'job' of fostering academic networking. In these times, they are much needed. However, they capitalize all-of-it in forms of data that transform the social order of visibility and 'fitness' in Janus-faced ways, which I still hesitate to 'subscribe to'. My apologies for this silence, which of course is a silence with weight and loss, pushing some to the margins, and others at the center. I'd still be happy to hear from you and get in touch!

TRENDING IN EMCA

EMCA4RJ

(EMCA for Racial Justice)

EMCA4RJ is an international coalition of students and scholars working within the EMCA community to decenter whiteness and advance a justice-focused scholarly movement. We join the global struggle to end oppression related to racism and colonialism and their intersecting systems of power, including but not limited to ableism, cissexism, colorism, heterocentrism, sexism, and economic and educational oppression.

We envision a research and academic community that centers the perspectives and concerns of those who are historically marginalized, whose membership represents global diversity, and who engages in mutual support toward leveraging EMCA research and teaching on social interaction to contribute to the collective struggle to dismantle white supremacy and achieve racial and social justice.

Goals and Objectives

- 1) Engage in collective learning to deepen our understanding of racism and other systems of oppression, identify how these systems operate globally, and both challenge and strategically use our various privileges.
- 2) Build an international, diverse, and inclusive community of students and scholars for collaboration and mutual support in advancing justice-oriented EMCA research.
- 3) Critically examine and encourage reflexive dialogue about how the EMCA community's culture(s), norms, values, and practices are complicit in systems of oppression.
- 4) Develop diverse datasets, literature bases, materials, and resources to support justice-focused EMCA teaching, learning, and research.
- 5) Support skills development for justice-focused EMCA research through data sessions and collective mentoring.
- 6) Advance EMCA research and scholarship that seeks to understand how racism and systems of power are reproduced and resisted in social interaction.

To get involved, or for more information, please email Natasha Shrikant at Natasha.Shrikant@colorado.edu, or Sara Goico at sgoico@g.ucla.edu.

***** It's not too early to be thinking about papers for next year's 2021 ASA meeting in Chicago! The formal call for papers with deadlines will be forthcoming soon. Remember--the more papers we receive, the better we can advocate for extra sessions for our Section. *****