

The Official Newsletter of the American  
Sociological Association Section on  
**Ethnomethodology and  
Conversation Analysis**

Summer 2017

Volume 8, Issue 8, p.1

**A message from Ken and Aug:**

Dear EMCA Community,

We are now ready to celebrate the semicentennial anniversary of Harold Garfinkel's Studies and the 25th anniversary of Harvey Sacks' Lectures. These were seminal scholars whose unflagging dedication to their sociological inquiries were not simply inspiring for us, but set a moral standard we can benefit from remembering and memorializing. In addition, we will have a Centenary Celebration of Harold Garfinkel's birth from 6:30pm - 8:10pm on Monday, Aug 14, in Room 514 of the Congress site. We invite members to come and share short personal anecdotes and remembrances of Harold. Complimentary wine will be served.

(As many of you already know, many unpublished materials by Garfinkel have become available at a UCLA library: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt087015p0/> Incidentally, Shiro Kashimura, our member, created an interesting site, in which you can find some aspects of how Garfinkel developed his idea of ethnomethodology: <https://sites.google.com/site/shirokashimura/Home/formative-works-of-ethnomethodology>)

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**Section Officers**

**Chairs**

Ken Liberman (University of Oregon)  
liberman@uoregon.edu

Aug Nishizaka (Chiba University)  
augnish@chiba-u.jp

**Treasurer**

Patrick Watson  
pwatson@wlu.ca

**Council**

Amelia Hill  
amjhill@ucla.edu

Jason Turowitz  
turowetz@gmail.com

Daniele Boehringer  
daniela.boehringer@uni-osnabrueck.de

Elliot Hoey  
elliott.hoey@mpi.nl

Chase Raymond  
chase.raymond@colorado.edu

Helena Webb  
helena.webb@cs.ox.ac.edu

Anne E.C. White  
aecwhite@gmail.com

## A message from Aug and Ken (Cont'd)

The new section by-laws have been approved. We would like to once again express our gratitude for the task of drafting them to Robert Dingwall, our former co-chair. We have reduced the size of the Council to one that is more suitable to the current size of the section. The new section by-laws also include a model of election cycles; this is intended to avoid many positions becoming vacant simultaneously (it is difficult to nominate many candidates at one election) and secure better continuity for running the section.

Especially, we are happy about having a very robust offering of papers this year that present recent research in ethnomethodology and CA. This should prove invigorating for us. We have much to thank Anne Rawls for her diligent service in recruiting, reading, and selecting these papers. While we have a vigorously active membership, the ASA is as interested in quantity as they are in quality, and they are placing us on their new Probation List due to our membership falling well below the minimum required number for several years. FOR THIS REASON, WE WILL BRING A LIST OF POTENTIAL SECTION MEMBERS TO THE MEETING AND ASK EACH SECTION MEMBER TO CHOOSE AT LEAST FIVE FROM THE LIST TO CONTACT PERSONALLY BY VOICE TO URGE THEIR JOINING THE SECTION. Also, anyone can add their own suggested new members to the list we will bring (send suggestions to [liberman@uoregon.edu](mailto:liberman@uoregon.edu)). We ask the membership to take this membership drive seriously.

We would like to thank those members who did really hard work for the section award committees. Please visit pages 6-9 for the information on the winners and committees members, along with the statements outlining the basis of the decisions.

Finally, we now have a new officer and new council members:

- **Patrick Watson** (new Secretary-Treasurer)
- **Amelia Hill** (new Council member)
- **Jason Turowetz** (new Council member)

We would like to welcome them on board.

We look forward to meeting with you and having a productive series of sessions. See you all in Montreal soon.

**Ken Liberman** [liberman@uoregon.edu](mailto:liberman@uoregon.edu)

&

**Aug Nishizaka** [augnish@chiba-u.jp](mailto:augnish@chiba-u.jp)

# ETMCA

**ASA 2017 EMCA Schedule****Sunday, August 13th****8:30am**

§158. *Regular Session Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Achieving Recognizable Objects and Information - Medical Settings*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 512A  
Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls,  
Bentley University

“Explaining test results: Practices for demonstrating the interpretation of measurement data.” Satomi Kuroshima, JSPS/Chiba University

“Facing the reality of health management: Physician responses to patient disclosures of medical misdeeds.” Clara Ann Blomgren Bergen, University of California Los Angeles

“Interpreting patients’ behaviour in an intellectual disability care setting.”

Joseph Webb, Bristol University; Alison Pilnick, University of Nottingham; Jennifer Clegg, Nottingham University

“Working with Objects in Dementia Care.” Daniela Boehringer, University of Osnabrueck; Lucia Wilma Artner, University of Hildesheim; Jasmin Pritha Richter, University of Hildesheim

**7:30pm**

Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Reception

- Offsite, Mechant Boeuf, 124 rue Saint-Paul  
Ouest

**Monday, August 14th****8:30am**

§323 *Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis. The Relevance of Garfinkel’s Studies for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Research Today*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 515C  
Session Organizer: Kenneth B. Liberman,  
University of Oregon

“Revisiting the Analyzability of Action-in-context as a Practical Achievement.” Geoffrey Raymond, University of Cal, Santa Barbara

“Emerging Order in the Forklift Warehouse.” Johannes Wagner, Southern Denmark University

“The Conversation Analytic Foundations of Ethnomethodology.” Eric Livingston, University of New England-Australia; Michael Lynch, Cornell University

... Cont’d on next page!

**ASA 2017 EMCA Schedule****Monday, August 14th** (cont'd)**10:30am**

*§354 Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis. New Directions in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Research and Business Meeting*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 515C  
Session Organizer: Aug Nishizaka,  
Chiba University

“Invoking Death: The Management of Patient Resistance in Cancer Treatment.” Alexandra Tate, UCLA

“New Directions in EMCA: Approaching Autism Spectrum Disorder from the Standpoint of Commonsense Knowledge.” Douglas W. Maynard, University of Wisconsin; Jason Turowetz, University of Siegen

“Power in Go: Material Practice, a Perspicuous Setting, and Its Praxeological Implications.” Philippe Sormani, Instituto Svizzero di Roma

**11:30am**

*Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis Business Meeting*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 515C  
Chairs: Kenneth B. Liberman,  
University of Oregon  
and  
Aug Nishizaka,  
Chiba University

**Monday, Aug 14****6:30pm - 8:10pm**

*Centenary Celebration of Harold Garfinkel's birth*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 515C  
Room 514

**Tuesday, August 15th****8:30am**

*§450 Regular Session. Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Achieving Recognizable Objects and Information - Technical Settings*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 512D  
Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls,  
Bentley University

“Supervising Autonomous Vehicles.” Erik Vinkhuyzen, Nissan Research Center - Silicon Valley

“Scientists Arguing: Emotion in Interdisciplinary Lab Conversation.” Donald A Everhart, UCSD

“Do you wanna see the baby?': Referencing ultrasounds in prenatal care.” Lisa Kietzer, UCLA

“The Moment of Attack: Ethnomethodology, Airborne Military Operations and the Use of Force against Designated Targets.” Michael Mair, University of Liverpool ; Christopher Elsey; Martina Kolanoski, Goethe University Frankfurt

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**ASA 2017 EMCA Schedule****Tuesday, August 15th** (cont'd)**10:30am**

*§450 Regular Session. Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Authority, Politics and Inclusion - Imperatives of Preference Orders*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 512C  
Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls,  
Bentley University

“A Secular View of Progressivity in Interaction”  
Chase Wesley Raymond, University of Colorado,  
Boulder

“Is Conversation Built for Two?”. Tanya Stivers,  
UCLA

“What is ‘chandelle’ in English? Word searches in  
the EFL classroom.” Julie Bouchard

**11:30am**

*§517 Regular Session. Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Authority, Politics and Inclusion - Social Structures of Conversation*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 512D  
Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls,  
Bentley University

“Interpreters’ Involvement in Dual Language  
Press Conferences: the Case of China” Ruy-Ying  
Liu, UCLA

“May it Tease the Court: Humor in Supreme  
Court Oral Arguments”. David R. Gibson, Uni-  
versity of Notre Dame; Robert William Mowry,  
University of Notre Dame

“Negotiating Repair: The Infrastructural Contexts  
of Practice and Power” Christopher R. Henke,  
Colgate University

“Practices of introspection. Doing spirituality  
in postural Yoga.” Clemens William Eisenmann,  
University of Konstanz & University of Siegen

**Tuesday, August 15th****2:30pm**

*§547 Regular Session. Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Historical/Theoretical Readings of Ethnomethodology*

Palais des congrès de Montréal, 512C  
Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls, Bentley  
University

“Garfinkel’s ‘Sources of Issues and Ways of  
Working’.” Douglas W. Maynard, University of  
Wisconsin

“Restoring Egon Bittner’s Ethnomethodological  
Contributions to Police Studies in a Digital Age.”  
Albert J. Meehan, Oakland University

“Breaching and Gestalt-Switch: On the Signifi-  
cance of Trouble Making in the Work of Harold  
Garfinkel.” Andrea Ploder, Siegen University;  
Clemens Willi Eisenmann, University of Kon-  
stanz & University of Siegen; Christian Erbacher,

Schedule also available online, for laptops, tablets,  
and other mobile devices, at:

<http://asa-emca.blogspot.com/p/asa-2017.html>

**2017 EMCA Section Awards****Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship****Anita Pomerantz**

Professor Emerita

Department of Communication, University at Albany, New York

[The] committee has determined that the Garfinkel-Sacks Lifetime Achievement Award of the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analytic Section of the American Sociological Association be awarded to Anita Pomerantz, Professor Emerita, Department of Communication, University at Albany, New York.

Professor Pomerantz holds an MA in Sociology from UCLA, and a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of California, Irvine. She was a leading figure among Harvey Sacks's first generation of graduate students, and one of a very few who achieved a doctorate before his untimely death in 1975.

Anita has published approximately 50 single or co-authored papers over the course of her career, and given many conference and invited presentations at conferences on talk and social interaction around the world. Her best known paper is, "Agreeing and disagreeing with assessments: Some features of preferred/dispreferred turn shapes," published in 1984 and cited an astonishing 3500-plus times. Other papers of hers have also been very influential — "Extreme case formulations: A way of legitimizing claims" (1986), "Compliment responses: Notes on the co-operation of multiple constraints" (1978); "Telling my side: 'Limited access' as a 'fishing' device" (1980), as well as major expository papers. These papers are true classics in that contemporary CA research as well as earlier work in the field uses her terminology and findings over and over again. Her phrasings and the phenomena to which they refer form a virtual lexicon in the CA field: 'agreeing/disagreeing with assessments', 'candidate answers', 'giving a source or basis', 'giving evidence', 'extreme case formulations', etc. These papers set standards of scholarship that many in the field aspire to (and some occasionally achieve).

Anita also has written many papers or chapters about the field, and is one of a few experts in CA on what is known as "preference organization." Her work ranges across a spectrum of topics from "ordinary conversation," to interaction in the fields of medicine, educational, legal and organizational environments.

In sum, Anita Pomerantz is a very distinguished practitioner in the fields of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, and someone whom we commend to our community with the utmost enthusiasm.

**John Heritage** (for the nominating committee: **Douglas Maynard; Anne Rawls**)"



**2017 EMCA Section Awards****EMCA Distinguished Book Award****Gail Jefferson**

*Talking about Troubles in Conversation* (edited by Paul Drew, John Heritage, Gene Lerner, and Anita Pomerantz). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2015.

In making this choice, we were mindful of the fact that Jefferson's book had a distinctive genesis. As a collection of previously-published articles, enough time had passed for its insights to enter and exert influence on the EMCA field. Did this accident of history give the book an unfair advantage? And had its insights, although at one time highly innovative, lost some of their initial luster? The committee concluded that, notwithstanding these issues, Jefferson's book remains profoundly groundbreaking and analytically powerful in ways that make it a clear choice for this award.

Jefferson's troubles talk project was the first CA study to attempt the examination of what she called "big packages of talk" – longer interactional episodes beyond adjacency pairs, assessment sequences, and related exchanges. These "big packages" pose special analytic challenges, because they are rarely realized in their "ideal form" and can be disrupted by a variety of local contingencies. There was no previous model for dealing with such complexities, so Jefferson had to develop new methods for examining the data and organizing their analysis. To this day, we know of no other study that can match this one in successfully mapping so complex a pattern of activity, and anatomizing its sequential components and their interrelations with such specificity and detail.

Equally innovative was Jefferson's conceptualization of the form of organization that underlies the empirical diversity of troubles-telling episodes. Rejecting the idea that such episodes are intrinsically messy, she defended their robustness while identifying recurrent local contingencies that can disrupt any particular episode. In the process, Jefferson pioneered the concept of activity contamination, and noted the disruptive potential of advice giving in the context of troubles talk. These concepts have proven to be extremely useful to those studying interaction in clinical settings, 911 emergency, and other people-processing institutions.

Finally, we note that Jefferson's project was also among the first within CA to address the dynamics of interpersonal distance and closeness, and the expression of intense emotions within interaction - issues of broad interest within and beyond the EMCA field.

**Steve Clayman** (for the nominating committee: **Yasusuke Minami; Felicia Roberts**)

**2017 EMCA Section Awards****EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award****Martina Kolanoski**

Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin

Goethe-Universität, Institut für Soziologie

“Undoing the Legal Capacities of a Military Object: A Case Study on the (In)Visibility of Civilians”. *Law & Social Inquiry* (Online, 2017)

In the article, Martina draws on ethnomethodology and conversation analysis to study a civil court case brought against the German military for their lead role in directing a bombing raid in the Afghan province of Kunduz which led to the deaths of a large number of civilians. Her analysis is based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted during the court hearings, video data and written evidence examined by the court, as well as transcripts of the court’s rulings. The paper focusses on disputes around the categories of ‘civilian’ and ‘combatant’ in the course of proceedings and uses the court as a ‘perspicuous setting’ (Garfinkel) for categorical work: legal counsel for both sides explicitly topicalised, and so made visible, the work of categorisation in situations of war. More specifically, legal counsel had to study, and formulate, what might be involved in seeing combatants as opposed to civilians and the possible bases for making discriminations either way, as required by International Humanitarian Law. Through a focus on this aspect of the court hearing, Martina is able to examine categorisation work as a member’s practice, indeed, as different kinds of practices, something reminiscent of Garfinkel’s work on the coroner too (1967: 18).

In terms of its subject matter, approach and aim to bring ethnomethodology and conversation analysis to wider disciplinary audiences, we felt this was a very strong piece of work by a scholar still in the early phases of her doctoral studies and we look forward to seeing how her inquiries develop from this point on. Martina is well placed to make innovative contributions given her role, along with Thomas Scheffer and others, as part of a research group in Germany that is using the concept of ‘trans-sequential analysis’ to develop its own distinctive ways of doing EMCA work – an important emerging body of scholarship to which this article belongs.

**Michael Mair** (for the nominating committee: **Christian Greiffenhagen; Kaoru Hayano**)



**2017 EMCA Section Awards****Melvin Pollner (1940-2007) Prize in Ethnomethodology****Götz Hoeppe**

Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Waterloo

“Working Data Together: The Accountability and Reflexivity of Digital Astronomical Practice”. *Social Studies of Science* 44: 243-70, 2014.

As chair of the Pollner Prize Committee, I am pleased to announce the winner of this year’s award: Götz Hoeppe, for his excellent article, “Working Data Together: The Accountability and Reflexivity of Digital Astronomical Practice.” This is a meticulous and illuminating study of how observational astronomers reconcile diverse data sources, and how, at the same time, scientists-in-training are inducted into a paradigm which guides their interpretation of what counts as trustworthy data and reportable findings. Far from passively trusting their instruments, the article shows how astronomers\*\* constantly scrutinize their data for implausible findings and work to reconcile recent discoveries with previous findings that have stabilized into the benchmark truth.

In addition to its many independent merits, the article resonates with Pollner’s fundamental concern with mundane reasoning, grappling with the question of how reality is buttressed as a collective act. For both reasons, the committee’s members were unanimous in their selection of this article for the Pollner Prize.

**David Gibson** (for the nominating committee: **Mark Peyrot; Iddo Tavory**)

## Graduate Student Biographies

**Mika Ishino**, Osaka University, Japan  
(u766729i@ecs.osaka-u.ac.jp)



Hello, my name is Mika and I am a Ph.D. student in the Department of Language and Culture at Osaka University in Japan, and also a visiting graduate researcher at the Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture (CLIC) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Before starting my Ph.D. program, I was a high school English teacher with an M.A. in foreign language education. I noticed that I encountered difficulties when attempted to manage the class, and I also had difficulty communicating with my students. However, I liked observing other teachers' classes to see how they communicated with their students and how they created their own classroom society. Although I genuinely enjoyed contemplating other teachers' lessons and speculating about why some were good at interacting with their students, I still did not enjoy teaching English at the high school for several years. Finally, I quit teaching and applied to graduate school to explore what I had observed during the other teachers' lessons. Since 2015, I have watched other teachers' lessons as a professional activity. I am really glad that I moved on to graduate school, since I really enjoy what I am doing now.

Based on my aforementioned background, my initial research project consists of determining English teachers' tactical practices for classroom organization at the level of secondary education. I have been conducting ethnographic studies in many junior and senior high schools in Japan, as well as working with audio and video recorded data. Among many different kinds of research approaches, I found EMCA to be the most compatible with what I want to explain about classroom interactions.

My second research project is very different from the initial one. The project is based on video-mediated interaction between English-Japanese-interpreters and English-speaking tourists in Japan through video-mediated interpretation service settings. I began looking at data when I came to UCLA in 2016. Dr. John Heritage and Dr. Tanya Stivers kindly hosted me as a visiting graduate researcher, which led me to begin working on my new research project with colleagues from UCLA. I am looking forward to sharing some interesting findings with you as soon as possible!

## Graduate Student Biographies



**Rachel Chen**, University of California, Berkeley ([rachel.chen@berkeley.edu](mailto:rachel.chen@berkeley.edu))

In my research, I study the day-to-day, multimodal interactions of individuals on the autism spectrum within families and other institutions. My educational trajectory began at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore, where I completed a B.A. and M.A. in Linguistics. As an undergraduate, I chanced upon the book “Roots of Human Sociality”, edited by Stephen Levinson and Nicholas Enfield, which presented an incisive outlook on human nature that I deeply appreciated. I was inspired to enroll in a class on Conversation Analysis, through which I gained a holistic perspective on communication that situates language in action and practices.

I saw potential in investigating the social interactions of those diagnosed with Autism, particularly individuals with limited verbal capabilities, and started to work with Dr. K.K. Luke on this line of research. During my B.A. and M.A., I learnt a lot through weekly CA data sessions, bi-annual CA workshops held in my department, and international conferences such as IPrA, ICCA and IEMCA. In 2015 I was awarded the Humanities International Ph.D Scholarship jointly funded by the Ministry of Education in Singapore and NTU, which has allowed me to pursue research at the doctoral level. I am currently supervised by Dr. Laura Sterponi (UC Berkeley), and Dr. Betty Yu (San Francisco State University).

In my doctoral research, I have been studying various phenomena associated with the diagnostic features of autism in naturally-occurring interactions. These include repetitive speech, repetitive behaviors, and distress displays, all of which have been generally pathologized in the study of autism. With my work, I aspire to challenge the predominant deficit perspective and demonstrate that autistic phenomena are interactionally-situated and collaborative. In another project, I have been using EMCA to understand how a newly introduced alternative augmentative communication (AAC) device is integrated into the home setting of a minimally-verbal child on the autism spectrum. In my research enterprise, I hope to complement traditional approaches to the study of autism and atypical populations with a social interactional perspective.

Become a **member** of the American Sociological Association  
Section on  
**Ethnomethodology and  
Conversation Analysis  
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I am an ASA Member and want to join the **Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section**. Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students) for 2016 section dues.

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