

# EMCA

## news

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

### Message from the Past Section Co-Chairs



MAYNARD (LEFT), RAWLS (RIGHT)  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON JIMERSON

This first issue of a newsletter for the ASA section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis marks a deeply important transition. It was six years ago that we first proposed an EMCA section and in the intervening years a number of us labored very hard to obtain the requisite numbers to qualify as a section. Now we *are* one!

Our purposes were and are, of course, far beyond winning a numbers game. There have been substantial theoretical, empirical, and other kinds of growth in our area, not only in the U.S. but internationally as well. However, scholars with this research interest have been involved in many different sections of the ASA and in international conferences or organizations. They have joined related disciplines and societies, notably communication, applied linguistics, and anthropology. The

high degree of cross-area and cross-disciplinary orientation is remarkable and welcome, but it can come at the cost of maintaining a forum for exchanging ideas, materials, and research in the distinctively sociological cauldron from which ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, after all, emerged.

Over the years, there have been efforts to form a separate EMCA society, but section formation seemed preferable to a strategy that might further disperse those whose social scientific interests are situated in the sphere of everyday life and its locally-produced order. The activities now offered by the EMCA section provide a gathering place for our diverse and international body of scholars to gather and share their work. It is where faculty can meet others with convergent interests, renew friendships, and catch up on the latest gossip, and where graduate students can launch their burgeoning projects, hear and ask questions of those who preceded them, and meet peers who may figure as future colleagues. It is important that all scholars with EMCA interests have an opportunity to present their own work, become aware of the advances that others are making, obtain advice or help, and find out when someone is dealing with similar problems, whether these are theoretical, empirical, or practical in nature.

So now we not only have such a forum, we have a new set of section officers, this exciting newsletter, a webpage under design, and further trappings of a “real” section rather than simply a section proposal or a “section-in-formation.” And, while we believe that exciting things are ahead, we also know that it will take a collective effort to maintain the momentum we have gained. We thank all those who have had a hand in the accomplishment so far, and we happily turn matters over to Gary David and Virginia Gill as section heads. They, along with our other officers, have already been hard at work to move the section into a promising new era. We can all join them in this effort.

**Doug Maynard and Anne Rawls**  
*Past Co-Chairs, EMCA section*

**Newsletter Co-Editors**  
Gary David and Virginia Teas Gill

**Managing Editor**  
Danielle Pillet-Shore  
UCLA  
dpillet@ucla.edu

**Production & Design**  
Teddy Elizabeth Weathersbee  
UW-Madison  
tweather@ssc.wisc.edu

# Message from the New Section Co-Chairs

As the new Co-Chairs of the ASA Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis, we want to welcome you to the first edition of *EMCA News* and share some of our plans for the section. Thanks to the efforts of many people, especially Doug Maynard and Anne Rawls, we are now an official ASA Section. Congratulations to all for making this possible.

We'd like to tell you about some events that occurred at this year's ASA meetings in Montreal. First, after much discussion and some modifications, those who attended the Section business meeting voted unanimously to accept the section bylaws. Second, we (Gary David and Virginia Gill) were elected Co-Chairs of the section, and Steve Clayman and John Heritage were elected Co-Secretary/Treasurer.



GILL (LEFT), DAVID (RIGHT)



HERITAGE (LEFT), CLAYMAN (RIGHT)

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASON JIMERSON)

We will all serve as officers from 2006-2008. In the spring of 2007, we will solicit nominations for Officers-Elect. Every EMCA section member will have the opportunity to vote for these Officers-Elect, who will serve from 2008-2010.

We plan to publish bi-annual issues of *EMCA News*, which we hope will be both informative and useful to section members. We would like to thank Ph.D. candidate Danielle Pilet-Shore (UCLA) for taking on the position of Managing Editor, and Ph.D. candidate Teddy Weathersbee (UW-Madison) for designing and producing the newsletter. Also, an EMCA section website is in the works. The newsletter and website will publicize upcoming conferences, spotlight new publications, introduce new Ph.D. candidates, and in general provide a central home for EMCA in sociology. But we also aim to increase the visibility of EMCA within sociology and across disciplinary boundaries. We encourage you to submit materials for our new section awards (see page 3), which will recognize outstanding EMCA scholarship. Along with the newsletter and website, we hope this will draw attention to the vibrancy and diversity of EMCA.

Of course, in these endeavors we are indebted to Paul ten Have, who created the Ethno/CA News website ([www.paultenhavenl/EMCA.htm](http://www.paultenhavenl/EMCA.htm)). By posting EMCA bibliographies, information about conferences, lists of resources, and so many other useful materials, Paul has provided a crucial service to our field for many years. It's a service that we can only hope to augment, but could not replace. This newsletter and the website will supplement the information out there and will help you stay informed about section activities.

See Co-Chair's Message, next page

- 2006-2008 SECTION OFFICERS**
- Co-Chairs**  
**Gary David**  
*Bentley College*  
 gdavid@bentley.edu
- Virginia Teas Gill**  
*Illinois State University*  
 vtgill@ilstu.edu
- Co-Secretary/Treasurers**  
**Steven Clayman**  
*UCLA*  
 clayman@soc.ucla.edu
- John Heritage**  
*UCLA*  
 heritage@soc.ucla.edu
- Council Members**  
**Tim Berard**  
*Kent State University*  
 tjberard@alumni.reed.edu
- Robert Dingwall**  
*University of Nottingham*  
 robert.dingwall@nottingham.ac.uk
- Angela Garcia**  
*University of Cincinnati*  
 angela.garcia@uc.edu
- Tim Halkowski**  
*SUNY-Albany*  
 thalkowski@albany.edu
- Jason Jimerson**  
*Franklin College*  
 jjimerson@franklincollege.edu
- Michael Lynch**  
*Cornell University*  
 mel27@cornell.edu
- Doug Maynard**  
*UW-Madison*  
 maynard@ssc.wisc.edu
- Anne Warfield Rawls**  
*Bentley College*  
 arawls@bentley.edu
- Marilyn Whalen**  
*Palo Alto Research Center*  
 Marilyn.Whalen@parc.com

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## Co-Chair's Message, *from previous page*

Finally, we would like to thank those of you who supported the formation of the section by joining up! We hope you will renew your membership for 2007 and will encourage your colleagues to join. Section membership is currently at 192 and we will work hard to attract more members in the coming years.

*Virginia Teas Gill and Gary David*  
EMCA Section Co-Chairs



## Call for Nominations: EMCA Lifetime Achievement Award

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, which should include a list of the nominee's publications; 3) two additional external letters speaking to the person's contribution and impact on the field(s). Nominations should be submitted no later than **February 1, 2007** to: Gary David, EMCA Section Co-Chair, Department of Sociology, Bentley College, 175 Forest Street, Waltham, MA 02452, or by email at [gdavid@bentley.edu](mailto:g david@bentley.edu).

## Call for Nominations: EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award

This award recognizes the most outstanding article-length paper written by a graduate student. The paper may be based on a thesis, dissertation, course paper, or paper submitted to a conference. Published papers or those that have been accepted for publication are not eligible. Co-authored papers are acceptable as long as both authors are students; in this case, the prize will be shared. The winner(s) will receive the award at the 2007 ASA meetings in NYC. Please send an electronic copy of the paper to Virginia Gill, EMCA Section Co-Chair, at [vtgill@ilstu.edu](mailto:vtgill@ilstu.edu). Deadline for submissions is **February 1, 2007**.

## Call for Nominations: EMCA Distinguished Book Award

This award recognizes an outstanding book (monograph or edited volume) contributing to ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. Eligible works must be published in one of the two calendar years preceding the ASA meeting at which the award is given. Thus, for the 2007 Award, the book must have been published during the 2005 or 2006 calendar years. Authors/editors can submit their own work, or nominations can be made on their behalf. Nominations by author/editors must include a letter of nomination detailing the contribution of the book to EMCA and three copies of the book. Nominations by others require only a letter of nomination, at which time the publisher of the book will be contacted for review copies. Nominations must be received no later than **February 1, 2007**, and should be sent to: Gary David, EMCA Section Co-Chair, Department of Sociology, Bentley College, 175 Forest Street, Waltham, MA 02452.



## On Ethno/CA News: [www.paultenhavenl/EMCA.htm](http://www.paultenhavenl/EMCA.htm) A brief history with some reflections *By Paul ten Have*

Around 1990 there were several ideas and initiatives to make something that would inform those working or just interested in ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. The *Ethno Hotline* was started by people in communications and Anita Pomerantz initiated *LangUse*, which has a wider appeal. These mailing lists offered a mixture of spontaneous debates, individual questions with responses, and announcements of books and conferences, as they still do. Although they have archives they do not provide an easily accessible and permanent source of information. A bit earlier, at one of the wonderful Boston conferences in 1987, David Goode offered to publish a newsletter, which he did once, if I remember correctly, but did not pursue further. It was called *Ethno News*. It was probably at the 1991 conference in Amsterdam that the need for such a letter was again expressed. I decided to take it on, since I already had quite a list of names and addresses.

*See On Ethno-CA News, next page*

## On Ethno/CA News, *from previous page*

I added “CA” to David’s title and made a first printed issue in 1992. I produced about 7 issues, until I was able to make a website in the fall of 1996, after being prompted repeatedly by Dede Boden to do so. Since then I have basically kept the general outline of about 5 to 7 main pages: About, What’s New?, Resources, Conferences, People, Sites & Lists, with various subpages. I have the impression that the bibliographies, the conference announcements and the subsection on Recent PhDs have been the most successful. For a few years I had a page with pictures of some of the Ethno/CA people I could get a portrait of, but I dropped it as some people seemed to react negatively.

It is interesting to contrast the two versions, the printed and the web-based ones. In a way, the printed version was more ‘personal’, as I sent it around to people for whom I had an address. So I received mail from them thanking me for the information, offering announcements or corrections. I still do receive such mails, especially for the Recent PhDs section, but they come ‘out of the blue’, so to speak, as I no longer have a ‘list’. On the other hand, the web makes it easier to update the information and to make corrections, as I do not have to wait until I have enough for a new issue.

One pay-off I had from the change to a web version was that I had to learn to write in HTML which made me more aware of writing as a way of pre-structuring reading. I used the experience to write a paper, treating HTML as an ‘explicating device’, presented in Tokyo and later published in *Human Studies*: ‘Structuring writing for reading: hypertext and the reading body’.

Managing a website like *Ethno/CA News* changes your life as it creates a specific set of relevancies. When I read a conference announcement I not only check whether I would go there, but also whether I should include an announcement in the web pages. When I see a paper in a journal or on the web, I see whether I have it in the bibliographies and I may even look up its references section to check whether I already ‘have’ the interesting ones mentioned there. There have been technical hassles, but these can be overcome. And, of course, I enjoy the moments I see a link to my pages or see it mentioned in a posting on the *Ethno Hotline* or the *LangUse* list. Doing the work is a self-imposed duty which has its rewards.



## Book Spotlight

**Paul Drew and John Heritage. (2006). *Conversation Analysis (4 volumes; Series: Benchmarks in Social Research Methods)*. London: Sage.**

The 4-volume collection, *Conversation Analysis*, that Drew and Heritage have edited for Sage’s series, *Benchmarks in Social Research Methods*, is intended to provide a basic resource in CA for teachers and researchers. The *Benchmarks* series reprints papers and chapters, especially journal articles, so as to bring together the key works in a given field; we have included as many of the core papers in CA as space allowed, representing CA’s development through to the present. The volumes are organized thematically, volume 1 focusing on turn-taking and repair; volume 2 on sequence organization; volume 3 on turn design and action formation; whilst volume 4 covers the application of CA to the study of ‘institutional’ interactions, principally in legal, medical and media settings. The volumes are expensive, so suitable perhaps as a library resource, providing much of the necessary background for teaching courses in this field.

## Chapter Spotlight

**George Psathas. (2007). *Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis at Boston University: A Brief History*. In W. Leeds-Hurwitz (Ed.), *The Social History of Language and Social Interaction Research: People, Places, Ideas*. Hampton Press.**

This chapter traces the history of the development of a program in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis at the Department of Sociology, Boston University, from 1968-2000. The focus is on institutional structures and arrangements, including the faculty involved, rather than the characteristics of the theoretical and methodological perspectives. A small core faculty, aided by extended collegial and research relationships in the local area and with visiting and part-time faculty, was able to develop and sustain a program over several decades. Names of students and their dissertation titles are included as are detailed listings of articles published in *Human Studies*, a journal which supported publications in these areas of specialization, and the contents of the book series, *Studies in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis*, co-published by the International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis and the University Press of America.



## **Calls for Papers**

**Scientific Practice as Ordinary Action: An International Workshop on Scientists at Work**, University of Fribourg, Department of Social Sciences, Switzerland. **March 22-23, 2007**

<http://www.unifr.ch/dss-dgw/scientificpractice/>

**17th International Conference on Pragmatics and Language Learning**, Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA. **March 26-28, 2007**

<http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/prodev/pll/>

**78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association**, Two panels on Ethnomethodology and/or Conversation Analysis, Oakland, California, USA. **March 29-April 1, 2007**

[http://www.pacificsoc.org/2006/06/2007\\_annual\\_mee.html](http://www.pacificsoc.org/2006/06/2007_annual_mee.html)

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Language, Interaction, and Social Organization**, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA. **May 17-19, 2007**

Submission deadline: January 15, 2007

[LISOconference@gmail.com](mailto:LISOconference@gmail.com)

**Third Congress of the International Society for Gesture Studies**, *Integrating Gestures*, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA.

**June 18-21, 2007**

<http://forums.jalt.org/index.php?topic=215.msg426>

**10th International Pragmatics Conference**, Göteborg, Sweden. **July 9-13, 2007**

[http://ipra.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=\\*CONFERENCE2006&n=1295](http://ipra.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=*CONFERENCE2006&n=1295)

**Summer 2007-Bentley College** will again be hosting the IEMCA bi-annual conference. The conference will take place on Bentley's campus, located just minutes outside of Boston. Housing and dining will be available on campus, with evening activities planned for the duration of the conference. We are also tentatively planning data sessions either before or after the conference (depending upon demand and interest), as well as other events such as regular sessions, keynotes, and plenary sessions. Specifics about dates, cost, and registration information will be forthcoming shortly. If you have any questions or comments regarding the conference, please contact Tim Anderson at [tanderson@bentley.edu](mailto:tanderson@bentley.edu).

## **Upcoming Seminar**

Linguistic Ethnography, Linguistic Ethnographies of Children and Youth, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain. **April 14, 2007**

Submission deadline: January 8th 2007

Submission information: email David Poveda [david.poveda@uam.es](mailto:david.poveda@uam.es)

## **Upcoming Workshop**

Law in Action and Context, Historical and Contemporary Practices, at the 8th Mediterranean Research Meeting, Florence, Italy. **March 21-25, 2007**

<http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mr2007/Index.shtml>

## ***102<sup>nd</sup> Annual American Sociological Association Meetings***

**August 11-14, 2007  
New York, New York**

**Submission deadline:  
January 17, 2007**

**ASA uses an on-line submission system. Submission information:** <http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Meetings&name=2007+Call+for+Papers> (click on "View Listing of Topics")

**Regular Session: Conversation Analysis  
Organizer: Emanuel Schegloff**

**Regular Session: Ethnomethodology  
Organizer: Don Zimmerman**

**Section Session 1: Medical Interaction  
Organizer: Elizabeth Boyd**

**Section Session 2: Workplace Studies/Ethnographic Studies of Work  
Organizer: Bob Moore**

# Report on ICCA O6

By Anssi Peräkylä

The International Conference on Conversation Analysis (ICCA06) took place in Helsinki May 10-14, 2006. The theme of the conference was “Comparative Perspectives in Conversation Analysis”.

Plenary speakers included Auli Hakulinen and Marja-Leena Sorjonen (Designing utterances for action: Ways of repeating the verb as a response to an assessment), Steven Clayman (Question design, the White House Press Corps, and President-Press relations), Elizabeth Couper-Kuhlen (A sequential approach to affect: The case of disappointment) and Paul Drew (The linguistic construction and sequential management of social actions: Offering, requesting and complaining). In terms of academic disciplines, the plenary speakers represented both sociology and linguistics.

The key phenomena addressed in their talks varied from prosodic details through syntactic constructions to selection of action and the statistical distribution of such selections.

The panels and individual papers naturally represented the whole variety of current CA research. Topics that at the moment seem to attract increasing numbers of researchers include for example classroom interaction, interaction in technological environments, psychotherapy, and multi-modal interactions. There were several innovative workshops; in particular, the one that focused on ‘teaching CA’ attracted many participants and lively debate.

The conference had about three hundred participants. Proposals for papers or posters were received from 42 countries: CA is a thoroughly international field. The most well represented countries among the proposals were the host country Finland (72 proposals), the United Kingdom (68 proposals) and the USA (40 proposals). The next most represented countries were Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, France and Australia.

The next ICCA will be organized in Germany. The year and date will be announced by the organizers later.

## *Ph.D. Candidates Doing Ethnomethodological and/or Conversation Analytic Research*

**Liana Grancea**

**University of California, Los Angeles, USA**

Department of Sociology

Email: granceae@ucla.edu

Expected Ph.D. dissertation completion: March 2007

Dissertation title: *Aspects of sequential and preference organization in Romanian telephone conversations*

**Marian Katz**

**University of California, Los Angeles, USA**

Department of Sociology

Email: mkatz@ucla.edu

Expected Ph.D. dissertation completion: Spring 2007

Dissertation title: *Acupuncturists and their patients remaking the sick role: Innovation in the relations of healing*

**Natalia La Valle**

**ICAR lab at Lyon2 University, France/ORANGE - France Télécom R&D**

Department of Linguistics

Email: natalia.lavalle@orange-ft.com

Expected Ph.D. dissertation completion: Dec. 2007

Dissertation title: *Les activités collectives dans l'espace domestique. Analyse vidéo, linguistique et ethnographique (Collective activities in the domestic space. Video, linguistic and ethnographic analysis)*

**Michael Mair**

**University of Manchester**

Department of Sociology

Email: michael.d.mair@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

Expected Ph.D. dissertation completion: Sept. 2007

Dissertation title: *Disorder, participation and the State: An ethnomethodological study of antisocial behaviour in an English urban community*

**Dawn Matthews**

**University of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, England**

Department of English

Email: A0673492@hud.ac.uk

Expected Ph.D. dissertation completion: July 2009

Dissertation title: *An analysis of laughter in call centre interaction and informal conversation*

See **Ph.D. Candidates**, next page

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**Ph.D. Candidates**, *from previous page*

**Danielle Pillet-Shore**

**University of California, Los Angeles, USA**

Department of Sociology

Email: [dpillet@ucla.edu](mailto:dpillet@ucla.edu)

Expected Ph.D. dissertation completion: Fall 2007

Dissertation title: *Coming together: How arriving and pre-present parties do the first moments of co-present interaction*

**Aimee Vieira**

**Université de Montréal**

Department of Sociology

[aimee.vieira@umontreal.ca](mailto:aimee.vieira@umontreal.ca)

Expected Ph.D. dissertation completion: Fall 2007

Dissertation title: *A regional portrait of Anglophone Quebec: Self-employment and entrepreneurship as economic survival strategies in the towns of Brome Lake, Brome & West Bolton*

We invite your submissions for the next issue of *EMCA News*. Send news about calls for papers, recent books, upcoming seminars and workshops, and Ph.D. candidates to Danielle Pillet-Shore ([dpillet@ucla.edu](mailto:dpillet@ucla.edu)).

