

EMCA news

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

Summer/Aug-Sept 2009

Volume 3 ~ Issue 3

ASA 2009 San Francisco, CA

The 2009 ASA meetings in San Francisco were a great success from the point of view of the EMCA Section. Attendance was very good at all of the sessions, with several having standing room only. The 2009 Section Awards were presented at the Business Meeting, and celebrated again at the reception at John Foley's Irish Pub after the meeting. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see details about the award winners. Professor Emeritus George Psathas received the Lifetime Achievement award, Dr. Eric Livingston won the publication award, and Kaoru Hayano won the Graduate Student paper competition, with Federico Rossano and Helena Webb receiving honorable mentions.

Thanks to the generosity of the Pollner family, a new EMCA section award has been established in honor of Mel Pollner with the intention of honoring his intellectual legacy. There is an award committee in place to review nominations for the Pollner award; details about this process will be announced in the next couple of months.

We also welcomed two new members to the Section council, Tanya Stivers and Geoffrey Raymond—thanks to you both for agreeing to serve. Outgoing Council Members were also thanked for their service (Tim Berard, Doug Maynard, Anne Rawls, and Marilyn Whalen).

One area of concern for our section is the continuing need to (see “concern” - continued on page 8)



Pictured: **George Psathas** - Lifetime Achievement award, **Kaoru Hayano** - Graduate Student Paper award, and **Frederico Rossano** - Graduate Student Paper Honorable Mention. Not Pictured: **Dr. Eric Livingston** - Publication Award and **Helena Webb** - Graduate Student Paper Honorable Mention. (See p. 2 for awards)

Submissions for the next issue
(Fall / Nov-Dec)
should be sent

By: November 13, 2009

To: Ingrid Li
(managing editor)

ingridli@umail.ucsb.edu

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A Note
from the
Section
Co-Chairs:

Membership Drive (December)

As we approach membership season, we would like to remind members to renew, as well as encourage others to join. Membership is critical for [ASA] funding as well as session allotments at the Annual Meetings. **See page 8.**

EMCA SECTION LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER 2009

GEORGE PSATHAS

**Professor Emeritus
Boston University**

*Ph.D. in Sociology
Yale University, 1956*



George's nomination for this award was supported by numerous heartfelt letters from many countries, including the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, England, and Japan. We would like to (anonymously) share some brief quotes from a few these letters which describe George's many accomplishments and achievements:

"George's published research and editorial activities cover the full spectrum of theoretical and empirical work from Alfred Schutz's phenomenological sociology through detailed analyses of conversation."

"Though recognized as a major Schutz scholar, unlike many other such scholars he did not limit himself to textual explication. Starting in the mid-1970s, he began a series of studies on spatial navigation, way finding, and direction giving. This work substantiated and developed original insight into what Harold Garfinkel called "occasion maps" — maps drawn to give directions from one singular place to another — which, as George's research showed, have intermediate status as textual forms that bridge the relations between objectified geography and moment-to-moment actions [of the] life-world. He developed this further with analyses of verbal direction giving sequences. His work on direction giving represented a turn toward conversation analysis, which is also reflected in writings in the 1980s through the present. At the same time, he maintained an orientation to conception of lived-space that runs through ethnomethodology and phenomenological sociology."

See PSATHAS - continued on page 3

Professor Emeritus George Psathas has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Section for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis. The Award was presented at the business meeting at the ASA annual meetings in San Francisco on August 10, 2009.

Dr. Psathas has played a major role in the development of ethnomethodology and related studies, in terms of his academic and theoretical work and his service. His books (*Conversation Analysis: The Study of Talk-in-Interaction*) and edited collections, such as *Everyday Language: Studies in Ethnomethodology*, *Interaction Competence*, *Situated Order: Studies in the Social Organization of Talk and Embodied Activities* (with Paul ten Have), and *Phenomenological Sociology: Issues and Applications*, have played an important role in the development of the field. He continues to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *Human Studies*, a journal he founded in 1978. He also played a major role in *The Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences*, the *International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis*, and the *American Association of University Professors* during a long and productive career.

I'm sure all the members of the EMCA Section join us in **congratulating George Psathas on receiving the *Lifetime Achievement Award* of the EMCA Section of the American Sociological Association.**

EMCA SECTION PUBLICATION AWARD WINNER 2009



Eric Livingston's *Ethnographies of Reason* (Ashgate, 2008) firmly establishes a new sociological approach – a way of doing ethnomethodology and studying practice – and demonstrates it in a fully coherent and practical way. This is a book with a unique form – a collection of short studies on topics that readers can test for themselves – which proposes some very ingenious methods for addressing a central but elusive topic: ordinary reasoning in action. Skillfully and without compromise, the author succeeds in progressively

engaging the reader in a true discovery process, making it accessible without sacrificing rigor. This book embodies the unconventional principles of the ethnomethodological perspective, contributing in an original way to its development. It follows in the tradition of David Sudnow's *Ways of the Hand*, Melvin Pollner's *Mundane Reasoning*, and Harold Garfinkel's original demonstrations in its linkage of methodological and topical praxis. It is a book that succeeds in making ethnomethodology particularly teachable, whether for the lone reader or for a classroom of curious students. For these reasons Eric Livingston's *Ethnographies of Reason* (Ashgate, 2008) has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 American Sociological Association's Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section Distinguished Publication Award.

The committee [Mark Peyrot (*chair*), Esther Gonzalez-Martinez, and Doug Maynard] was impressed by the quality and quantity of submissions, and all authors are to be congratulated for their work:

Carly Butler (2008), *Talk and Social Interaction in the Playground*

Jeff Coulter and Wes Sharrock (2007), *Brain, Mind and Human Behavior in Contemporary Cognitive Science: Critical Assessments of the Philosophy of Psychology*

Harold Garfinkel (2008), edited and introduced by Anne Warfield Rawls, *Toward a Sociological Theory of Information*

Christopher Henke (2008), *Cultivating Science, Harvesting Power: Science and Industrial Agriculture in California*

Stephen Hester and David Francis (eds.) (2007), *Orders of Ordinary Action: Respecifying Sociological Action*

Phil Hutchinson, Rupert Read and Wes Sharrock (2008), *There is No Such Thing as a Social Science: In Defence of Peter Winch*

Michael Lynch, Simon A. Cole, Ruth McNally and Kathleen Jordan (2008), *Truth Machine: The Contentious History of DNA Fingerprinting*

PSATHAS continued from page 2

"Perhaps the greatest contribution which George Psathas has made, and continues to make, is through his willingness to act as a personal and academic bridge between alternative disciplinary approaches to the constitution of the social. Under his editorship, *Human Studies* daringly opened up the intellectual space circumscribed by phenomenological approaches for others to explore, both in terms of the challenges to mainstream pre-occupations and configurations as well as those challenges which come from those disciplinary complexes. Throughout his academic career, George Psathas has never failed to see challenges from either front as offering fruitful terrain for shared understanding and mutual exchange... George Psathas is, then, a great scholar and a greater teacher."

Professor Psathas's scientific, editorial and institutional accomplishments are accompanied by his extraordinary merits as instructor, mentor and colleague. He has trained generations of students in ethnomethodological, conversational and interactional analysis with great dedication, promoting the careers of some of the field's most brilliant scholars and supporting the activities of countless researchers the world over. He is always glad to offer critical insight on an idea, facilitate a contact or support a project. Overall, through several decades, Prof. George Psathas has decisively served the field of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, and he has done so with great honesty.

To me, George Psathas is the penultimate scholarly mentor, a man who always had time to listen to what I was working on, and found a critical but compassionate way to nudge the quality of my research projects forward.

You could never have wished for a better colleague, in good times and in tough times, than George Psathas.

EMCA SECTION GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNER 2009

Kaoru Hayano's paper, entitled *Generalization and Specification of the Scope of Assessment: Negotiations of Epistemic Stance in Japanese Talk-in-Interaction*, was awarded the EMCA Section Graduate Student Paper for 2009.

In addition, the following papers were **awarded Honorable Mention**: **Frederico Rossano**, *Projecting Actions, Enacting Participation: Gaze Behavior in Extended Tellings* and **Helena Webb**, *Praising Patients 'at Every Opportunity': A Conversation Analytic Investigation of Crediting Turns in Medical Consultations about Obesity*



What's Coming Up



... CALENDAR AT A GLANCE ...

Everyday Interaction Across Cultures
University of Portsmouth
September 23-24, 2009

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2nd Bi-Annual CLASP (*Culture, Language, and
 Social Practice*) Conference
University of Colorado at Boulder
October 2-4, 2009

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International Conference on Communication in
 Healthcare (ICCH)
Miami Beach, Florida
October 4-7, 2009

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Language and Social Interaction Division, Annual
 Meeting of the National Communication
 Association (NCA)
Chicago, Illinois
November 12-15, 2009

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International Communication Association
 Conference (ICA)
Singapore
June 22-26, 2010

Submission Deadline: **November 6, 2009**
 (see **page 5** for details)

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International Conference on Conversation
 Analysis (ICCA-10)
Manheim University, Germany
July 4-8, 2010

Submission Deadline: **October 30, 2009**
 (see **page 5** for details)

CONFERENCES

Everyday Interaction Across Cultures

September 23-24, 2009

University of Portsmouth

Hosted by the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth, the conference on *Everyday Interaction Across Cultures* aims to get together researchers applying conversation analysis to everyday interaction. We welcome papers on aspects of everyday interaction in any language.

Opening plenary: 'It's disgusting': Practices for Criticizing Food and Family at the Dinner Table' - Jenny Mendelbaum (Rutgers University, New Brunswick).

This conference is a part of a project which investigates how local linguistic resources enter into practices of dealing with everyday tasks.

For further information, see also: www.ca-across-cultures.org

International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH)

October 4-7, 2009

Miami Beach Resort & Spa - Miami Beach, Florida, USA

The International Conference on Communication in Healthcare series is the largest gathering of researchers, educators and administrators from around the globe to focus on improving communication in healthcare. The multi-disciplinary nature of conference delegates encourages the integration of perspectives, theory, practice and innovation.

Emphases of this year's conference are Ethical issues in Healthcare Communication, Patient safety as a Communication Issue and Intercultural Issues in Communication. The International Conference will feature Jozien Bensing, PhD (5 October) and Michael Leonard, MD (6 October) and William Branch, MD (7 October) as the keynote speakers.

ICCH 2009 Brochure

<http://www.aachonline.org/downloads/ICCHEbrochure2009.pdf>

ICCH 2009 Registration Form

<http://www.aachonline.org/downloads/RegistrationForm.pdf>

The International Conference on Conversation Analysis (www.ICCA10.org) "Multimodal Interaction"

July 4-8, 2010

Manheim University, Germany

Submission of abstracts for individual papers, posters and workshops/data sessions will start on **August 17, 2009**, together with the conference registration.

Further information and advice can be obtained from the conference webpage at www.icca10.org



What's Coming Up

Continued from p.4



CONFERENCES: CALL FOR PAPERS (details)

2010 International Conference on Conversation Analysis (ICCA10) Mannheim (Germany), July 4-8, 2010

Submission of contributions for the 2010 International Conference on Conversation Analysis (ICCA10), to be organized by the Institute for the German Language (IDS) in Mannheim (Germany), July 4-8, 2010, **starts on August 17, 2009**.

This is a call for scholarly papers which can relate to the full range of topics within the scope of conversation analysis. Particularly welcome are papers on the conference theme "*Multimodal Interaction*," i.e. papers which deal with the close sequential analysis of the organization of bodily interaction in its full audio-visual detail, attending to the simultaneity of different modalities of interaction and their interactive co-ordination.

In addition to submitting abstracts for individual lectures (20 min. presentation + 10 min. discussion), researchers are invited to submit abstracts for data sessions, posters, and workshops via the online abstract submission system on the conference homepage: www.icca10.org. Here, you will also find information regarding registration and guidelines for submission.

Abstracts must not comprise more than 2000 characters and have to be submitted **until October 30, 2009**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out at the end of January 2010.

The main conference language is English. Contributions in German and in French are also welcome.

For additional information, please visit: www.icca10.org, or contact us if you have any questions: icca10@ids-mannheim.de.

International Communication Association (ICA) Conference Singapore, June 22-26, 2010

The Language and Social Interaction Division welcomes submissions about the social uses of language or embodiment in various contexts of human interaction. Among the range of perspectives found within the Division are: discourse analysis, ethnography of communication, conversation analysis, critical discourse analysis, rhetoric of language, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, semiotics, embodied communication, social constructionism, social psychology of language, as well as other approaches. Theoretical, empirical, critical, and practical works are welcome using qualitative or quantitative methodologies.

Extended abstracts or panel proposals will be considered. Extended abstracts should be 600 to 1,500 words (including references, tables, or charts). Panel proposals should include a rationale for the panel as well as extended abstracts from each panelist. Attendees from "soft currency" countries may apply for financial support for the cost of convention registration only. Please apply for consideration by sending a separate message addressed to the program planner listed above.

The conference submission website will go online around 15 September 2009.

To reach the conference website, go to the ICA home page at <http://www.icahdq.org> and follow the link for 2010 Conference Submission.

Deadline for submission: 6 November 2009

ICA Call-for-Papers:

<http://www.icahdq.org/conferences/2010/2010CFP.pdf>

ICA web site: <http://www.icahdq.org/>

Language and Social Interaction Division Program Planner: Richard Buttny,
Syracuse U, Department of Comm & Rhetorical Studies

EMCA Scrambled Names Game ANSWERS to the Winter 2009 Puzzle:

1. Name: ASKAKWATKUOOOY

* *Hint: Cold room*

Kawatoko, Yasuko. 1999. "Space, Time and Documents in a Refrigerated Warehouse." *Human Studies* 22:315-337.

2. Name: FALEEUSEMFLGNOCH

* *Hint: Shoot*

Schegloff, Emanuel. 1980. "Preliminaries to Preliminaries: Can I ask a question?" *Sociological Inquiry* 50(4):104-152.

3. Name: YONRAWTENSOD

* *Hint: Murder, he spoke*

D. R. Watson. 1990. "Some Features of Elicitation of Confessions in Murder Interrogation." Pp. 263-296 in George Psathas (ed.) *Interaction Competence*. Washington, D. C.: University Press of America.

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



Wayne A. Beach (2009). *A natural history of family cancer: Interactional resources for managing illness*. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, Inc.

A family. A phone call. A diagnosis: One Family's journey through cancer.

Family members and cancer patients routinely talk about and through cancer on the telephone. Yet little is known about the social organization of these conversations and how cancer diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis impact everyday living. The culmination of a decade of research, this volume offers close examination of the *first natural history* of one family's 13 month journey through a wife/mother/sister's terminal cancer. Analysis of these family phone recordings (and transcriptions) offers primal insights about the fundamental importance of communication, and how family members rely on one another when navigating through complex social, emotional, technical, and biomedical concerns associated with cancer: Updating and assessing emerging news, being stoic, claiming and defending knowledge, reporting and responding to ongoing troubles, making airline reservations, adjusting to stable yet ambiguous health circumstances, displaying frustration, commiserating, maintaining a 'state of readiness', evaluating doctors and medical care, telling and retelling stories, being humorous and playful, and constructing hope as an alternative to despair. These interactions reveal no small measures of personal challenges, emotional turmoil, humorous exchanges, endearing actions, and resolute efforts to remain hopeful in the progressive face of bad cancer news.

Moments such as these are extraordinary and mundane, foreign yet strikingly familiar to all who have encountered them when matters of illness, disease, life, and death move to the forefront and require our attention. Readers will not only gain enhanced understandings of ordinary human interactions, but a deep appreciation for managing the trials, tribulations, hopes and triumphs of cancer - and all human illness journeys shaped by communication in everyday life.

Two Volumes on Conversation Analysis on Brazilian Portuguese Data:



LODER, Leticia Ludwig; Neiva Maria Jung (eds). *Fala-em-interacao: introducao a Analise da Conversa Etnometodologica*. Campinas: Mercado de Letras, 2008. ISBN: 978-85-7591-096-2

FALA-EM-INTERACAO SOCIAL: INTRODUCAO A ANALISE DA CONVERSA ETNOMETODOLOGICA
(Publication in Portuguese)

Translation: Talk-in-Interaction: Introducing Conversation Analysis

Editors: Leticia Ludwig Loder and Neiva Maria Jung



LODER, Leticia Ludwig; Neiva Maria Jung (eds). *Analises de fala-em-interacao institucional: a perspectiva da Analise da Conversa Etnometodologica*. Campinas: Mercado de Letras, 2009. ISBN 978-85-7591-116-7

ANALISES DE FALA-EM-INTERACAO INSTITUCIONAL: A PERSPECTIVA DA ANALISE DA CONVERSA ETNOMETODOLOGICA
(Publication in Portuguese)

Translation: Analyses of institutional talk-in-interaction: the perspective of Conversation Analysis].

Editors: Leticia Ludwig Loder and Neiva Maria Jung

Department News

SOVAKO, the Finnish Doctoral Program in Social Sciences, has opened a call for 18 funded doctoral positions.

One of the schools of Doctoral program is **Graduate school of language, action and social interaction.** (Four Universities: Helsinki, Tampere, Jyväskylä and University of Art and Design, Helsinki) which emphasizes diverse research on social action and interaction. The objective is to increase Ph.D. students' theoretical and methodological capabilities in social sciences that concentrates on social action, language and interaction. Teaching stems from the traditions of discourse analysis, ethnomethodology, and ethnography.

Research themes includes studies on social relations, media technology and social interaction, institutions as social practices, emotions in psychotherapy interaction, interactive learning and training practices in social action, power in language, etc.

International Collaboration:

UK: University of York, Department of Sociology; Loughborough University, Department of Social Sciences; University of Huddersfield, Centre for Applied Childhood Studies & Centre for Health and Social Care Research; King's College London, Work, Interaction and Technology Research Group.

Germany: University of Bielefeld, Department of Sociology.

USA: University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Sociology; UCLA, Department of Sociology.

For more information, contact:

Anssi Perakyla <http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/staff/perakyla/english.htm>
Kirsi Juhila

<http://www.uta.fi/laitokset/sospol/hlokunta/juhila/juhilaen.htm>

Ilkka Arminen <http://www.uta.fi/%7EIlkka.arminen>

Ilpo Koskinen <http://www2.uiah.fi/%7EIkoskine/>

Jarl Wahlstrom

http://www.jyu.fi/ytk/laitokset/psykologia/henkilokunta/jarl_wahlstrom

Graduate school in User-Centered Information Technology has opened 15 four-year funded positions for doctoral students in the area of User-Centered Information Technology.

The next deadline for applications for funded positions is 15:45 Finnish time on the **25th of September, 2009.**

<http://www.cs.uta.fi/ucit/applications.php>

Positions are located at the University of Tampere and Aalto University (Helsinki/Espoo).

For further information, please contact

Ilkka Arminen, Department of Social Research, University of Tampere: Ilkka.arminen@uta.fi

Degree Completions



**H e l l e n e
D e m o s t h e n o u s**

received her Ph.D. in
October 2008 from

Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia for the dissertation on '*The Organisation of Turn-Taking for Deep Hypnosis.*' Supervisors Rod Gardner, Calvin Smith and Boni Robertson (Griffith University). Examiners Anssi Perakyla (University of Helsinki) and Joanna Rendle-Short (Australian National University).



Emily F. Rine

received a Ph.D. from
Penn State University

in 2009. Her dissertation, entitled *Development in Dialogic Teaching Skills: A Micro-Analysis of a Pre-Service ITA*, was supervised by Joan Kelly Hall. Addition committee members were Steven L. Thorne, Meredith Doran, Paula Golombek (University of Florida), and Johannes Wagner (Univ. of Southern Denmark).

Congratulations!

("concern" - continued from page 1)

increase membership. Membership is important for several reasons:

Officially, we are supposed to have at least 300 members to secure our status as a section, although the ASA also considers our section activity (awards, attendance at sections, newsletters, and other activities) as justifying our continued existence.

However, the funding provided to the section by ASA depends on number of members we have, which is important for funding the activities of the section.

And, most importantly, the number of sessions we are allotted for the annual meetings is directly proportional to the number of members in our section. We will be contacting members soon to remind you to renew your membership this year and to talk to your colleagues and students about joining the section.

One of our section sessions for the 2010 annual meetings will be in honor of the work of Gail Jefferson. Details about that session will be forthcoming in our next edition of the newsletter.

Jack Whalen has volunteered to chair the nominations committee this year, and he will be seeking out volunteers to run for the positions of co-chairs of the section, secretary/treasurer, and council members, so please let him know if you are interested in running or if you know someone who you think would be interested in the position.

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By: November 13, 2009

To: Ingrid Li (managing editor)
ingridli@umail.ucsb.edu

Join ASA and the EMCA Section

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

2009 ASA Membership Dues:

Regular:	\$24 - \$176 (sliding scale, based on income)
Associate:	\$42
Student:	\$18
Emeritus	\$42
International	\$42

2009 Section Membership Form

Name (*please print*)

Address

E-mail

_____ I am an ASA member and want to join the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section. Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 for 2009 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).

Mail to:

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