

The Official Newsletter of the American Sociological Association Section on

EMCA

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

Winter, 2013

Volume 7, Issue 1

The 2012-2013 EMCA Section Officers

Co-Chairs

Erik Vinkhuyzen
Palo Alto Research Center
evinkhuy@parc.com

Dirk vom Lehn
King's College London
dirk.vom_lehn@kcl.ac.uk

Secretary/Treasurer

Ruth Parry
University of Nottingham
ruth.parry@nottingham.ac.uk

Council Members

Tim Berard
Kent State University
tjberard@alumni.reed.edu

Robert Dingwall
Nottingham Trent Univ.
robert.dingwall@ntu.ac.uk

Virginia Gill
Illinois State University
vtgill@ilstu.edu

Michael Lynch
Cornell University
mel27@cornell.edu

Douglas Maynard
Univ. of WI, Madison
maynard@ssc.wisc.edu

Alison Pilnick
University of Nottingham
alison.pilnick@nottingham.ac.uk

Geoffrey Raymond (Past
Chair)
Univ. of CA, Santa Barbara
graymond@soc.ucsb.edu

Liz Stokoe
Loughborough University
e.h.stokoe@lboro.ac.uk

A Message from the Section Chairs

Dear EMCA community,

Welcome to the spring newsletter of the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section.

We are looking forward to the American Sociological Association conference this summer in New York. The ASA has granted us four sessions, but thanks to a great response to the call for papers for both the ethnomethodology and conversation analysis sessions John Heritage and Tanya Stivers have applied for

more sessions. The ASA is yet to grant us these, but the enthusiastic response is a sign that the section serves an ever vibrant international community and ought to have a place at the ASA; sociology is after all the discipline from which the field derives its intellectual roots.

That is not to say that we are not struggling with membership. While we have signed up some new members and were able to entice some former members to rejoin the section, our membership is in the low 100s, far below the 300 members that the ASA has set as the minimum for a section. We have received official notice from the ASA that increasing membership must be priority and real progress must be shown this year. So please help us out by becoming a member and by asking your colleagues to become members. Recall that once you have paid for the ASA membership, the section membership (cont.)

In this Issue...

Recent Publications,
Page 2

Reports on Recent
EMCA Events,
Pages 3-4

Upcoming
Conferences, Pages
3-4

Remembering Mark
Rapley, Page 5

Meet EMCA
Graduate Students
from Around the
World, Pages 6-8

Recent Publications

Interaction and Everyday Life; Phenomenological and Ethnomethodological Essays in Honor of George Psathas, 2012, Edited by Hisashi Nasu and Frances Chaput Waksler, Lexington Books.

The Handbook of Conversation Analysis, 2012 Jack Sidnell and Tanya Stivers, Wiley-Blackwell.

The Dynamics of Auction, Social Interaction and the Sale of Fine Art and Antiques, 2012, Christian Heath, Cambridge University Press.

A Special Issue of the *Journal of Pragmatics* on "Conversation Analytic Studies of Multimodal Interaction" has now appeared as Volume 46,1: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03782166/46/1>

Symbolic Interaction continues to welcome contributions from EM/CA colleagues. The February issue has Neil Jenkins reviewing Baudoin Dupret's *Adjudication in Action: An Ethnomethodology of Law, Morality and Justice and Practices of Truth: An Ethnomethodological Inquiry into Arab Contexts*. The May issue will include "Engendering response: professional gesture and the assessment of eyesight in optometry consultations" by Helena Webb, Christian Heath, Dirk vom Lehn and Will Gibson. Please submit contributions online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/si>. We would also like to hear from early career EM/CA folks who would be willing to review for us - this is a great chance to learn how to write successful papers by helping others to improve theirs. Email the editor-in-chief, Robert Dingwall, at robert.dingwall@ntlworld.com

Congratulations to EMCA section member Michael G. Flaherty' for winning the 2012 Charles Horton Cooley Award.



He won the award for his book "The Textures of Time: Agency and Temporal Experience" (Temple, 2012).

Message from the Chairs Continued

is relatively cheap, so convincing folks who are already ASA members to join our section as a second section should be easier. Remember also that students can join the ASA at a highly reduced rate.

We also need your help with several of the awards for this year. Jon Hindmarsh heads up the graduate student paper award. Please send your graduate students' submissions to Dirk vom Lehn (dirk.vom_lehn@kcl.ac.uk). Only scholarly, journal-ready articles and papers produced in 2012 will be considered. If you know of a book that should be considered by the book awards committee, please send the title to Patrick Watson (pwatson@uwaterloo.ca) - eligible works must be published in 2011-2012.

In this newsletter and in upcoming newsletters, we will publish a series of brief pieces by EMCA graduate students from around the world about their departments and themselves, highlighting where EMCA is being taught in the world and the different types of work graduate students are doing. In this issue, we are featuring essays from graduate students from Russia, Italy, and Australia. If you would like to write a piece, or know graduate students who would like to, please e-mail Laura Loeb (laura.a.loeb@gmail.com).

We hope to see you all in New York! Remember, registering early is cheaper!

Thanks to Laura Loeb for editing and designing the new look for the newsletter.

Yours,

Erik Vinkhuyzen & Dirk vom Lehn, co-chairs.

Reports on Recent EMCA Events

Upcoming Conferences

'Social interaction in international encounters': International Symposium
Kansai University, Senriyama Campus, Japan
March 5-6, 2013
Submission Deadline: February 18, 2013

Advanced Summer Institute on video-based research methods
'Video and the analysis of social interaction'
Work, Interaction and Technology Research Centre, King's College London
June 17-18, 2013
Submission Deadline: March 13, 2013

International Communication Association Language and Social Interaction Division
London, England
June 17-21, 2013
Submission Deadline: November 1, 2012

Investigating medical / clinical interactions: A training workshop
Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough, UK
June, 24-26, 2013
Registration Deadline: April 30, 2013

Atypical Interaction: Conversation Analysis and Communication Impairments
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
June 27-28, 2013
Submission Deadline: February 14,

Australian Institute of Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

By: Sean Rintel

The Australian Institute of Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis held its biennial conference on November 29-30, 2012 in Brisbane, Queensland. Delegates explored research on the theme of "Knowledge and Asymmetries in Action." This theme plays to a major strength of the EM/CA/MCA paradigm: the ability to demonstrate the consequentiality of the sequential deployment of members' knowledge(s) in interaction and/or the relevance of asymmetries to members in interaction.

Over 50 delegates heard 24 research papers from across Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the UK. The two keynote speakers for the conference were Associate Professor Michael Emmison (University of Queensland) ("Epistemic Engine' versus 'Role-Play Method': Divergent trajectories in contemporary conversation analysis") and Dr Max Travers (University of Tasmania) ("Asymmetries in legal practice, asymmetries in analysis? A review of recent ethnographies influenced by the studies of work tradition"). Sessions included research on technology, education, conflict, health communication, indigenous communication, and methodology. For the first time student papers were presented in special condensed sessions (7-10 minutes of presentation and 5-8 minutes of discussion) in which they were asked to focus on presenting only their key data so that discussion could be focused on improving analysis.

The conference was chaired by Sean Rintel and Edward Reynolds from The University of Queensland School of Journalism and Communication, with an organising committee drawn from the three major Queensland universities and the University of Sydney (Scott Barnes (USYD), Susan Danby (QUT), Richard Fitzgerald (UQ), Rod Gardner (Griffith), Jessica Harris (UQ), Jayne Keogh (Griffith), Ilana Mushin (UQ), and Maryanne Theobald (QUT)). The primary sponsor of the conference was The University of Queensland (Social and Behavioural Science Faculty, the School of Journalism and Communication, and the School of Education). Additional sponsorship also came from Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University.

Selected papers from the conference will be published in the Australian Journal of Communication 2013 (Volume 39, Issue 2). A parallel Open Journal Systems version will also be published, which will make the papers immediately available online.

The full program for the conference is available at the conference website: <http://aiemca.net/2012-conference/>

Upcoming Conferences

4th International Conference on Conversation Analysis & Clinical Encounters (CACE) and CA and Psychotherapy
University of York UK
CACE July 5-7, 2013, CA and Psychotherapy July 8, 2013
Submission Deadline: January 31, 2013

2013 IEMCA Conference
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario
August 5-8, 2013
Submission Deadline: September 30, 2012

American Sociological Association - 108th Annual Meeting
Hilton New York and Sheraton New York, New York City, NY
August 10-13, 2013
Submission Deadline: January 9, 2013

Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA
October 9-12, 2013
Submission Deadline: March 17, 2013

4th International Conference on Conversation Analysis - ICCA-14
University of California, Los Angeles
June 25-29, 2014
Submission Deadline: July 1, 2013

CA Day at Loughborough University

By: Emma Richardson and Joanne Meredith

The annual Loughborough University Conversation Analysis (CA) Day organised by Charles Antaki and Elizabeth Stokoe, now in its 6th year, was a vibrant event, as ever. On Monday December 17, 2012, sixty attendees from as far afield as Norway, Romania, Japan and Singapore assembled to present and discuss current CA research. The event was oversubscribed demonstrating the strength and vibrancy of the field. The theme this year was 'action in conversation,' which attracted many high-calibre presenters. There were nine presentations given throughout the day, as well as two invited speakers. The presentations were wide ranging with data coming from, amongst other places, Arabic news interviews (Abdul Rahman Alfahad), computer games (Eric Laurier & Stuart Reeves), operating theatres (Terhi Korkiangas & Sharon-Marie Weldon) and Japanese television shows (Hiroko Fujita). There were a number of different conversation analytic issues addressed, such as understanding checks (Tom Koole), directives (Alexandra Kent), other-initiated repair (Kobin Kendrick), topic shifts (Meg Zellers) and identity bound categories (Hiroko Fujita). The two invited speakers, Traci Walker (University of York) and Bill Wells (University of Sheffield) both presented interesting and engaging talks, focusing on prosodic and intonational issues in talk. Traci raised an interesting point for conversation analysts who label particular intonation contours, such as final intonation, questioning intonation and so on. She pointed out that as we would not label a particular action as de facto questioning, we should not also label an intonation contour as such. This led to a number of interesting discussion points. These points amongst others raised throughout the day were further discussed during the coffee breaks and into the evening where attendees extended their opportunity to network with others.

Live Data: Research in Real-Time, University of Liverpool

By: Michael Mair

This mini-symposium on January 24, 2013, chaired by Michael Mair (University of Liverpool, UK), featured talks by Dave Randall (University of Siegen, Germany), Eric Laurier (University of Edinburgh, UK) and Mark Rouncefield (University of Lancaster, UK). In different ways, each speaker took up the subject of what ethnomethodology's interest in 'live data' – typically characterised as data captured at the moment of its generation – might be. Dave Randall opened with his talk, 'Live Data: Ethnomethodology, Ethnography and the Studies of Work Programme,' in which he provided examples from ongoing research by way of an introduction to the studies of work programme and its emphasis on 'live' action. Dave was followed by Eric Laurier, whose talk, 'A Real-Time Round of Film Editing: Proposing, Assessing and Selecting in Video Work,' focused on explicating the "lived work" of editing a television documentary. Mark Rouncefield concluded with a talk on 'Ethnomethodology at Play,' a follow-up to his co-edited (with Peter Tolmie) collection, *Ethnomethodology at Work* (2011). In it, he pointed to the 'missing interactional what' in sociological research on play and discussed what ethnomethodological studies add to our understanding in these areas. Distinguishing ethnomethodological studies from other kinds of contribution to the 'live data' debate, each of the speakers highlighted issues of sequentiality and interaction in the organisation of both ordinary and specialised activities as relevant to understanding how members themselves encounter and manage problems connected to the 'live' or 'real-time' character of their affairs. In each talk, 'live data' was shown to be something already routinely engaged with by ethnomethodology, precisely because of the programme's commitment to describing the temporally ordered and temporally oriented nature of activities. Rather than treat 'live data' as an analyst's problem, each speaker sought to show specific ways in which it becomes and is dealt with as a member's problem. Videos and materials from the talks (including a presentation by Graham Button on real-time diagnostic work in medical practice) will be available through the engage@liverpool website: www.liv.ac.uk/engage

Remembering Mark Rapley

1962 — 2012

By: Charles Antaki

Mark Rapley, a British psychologist who was known to many people in the EM / CA community for his work applying ethnomethodological principles to the study of intellectual disability, died on the 12th of August 2012, aged 50, from cancer.

Mark contributed very significantly to the introduction of ethnomethodological thinking to the UK and the Australian clinical psychological community. His personal energy and drive, his high standards, and his enthusiasm for 'deep' ethnomethodology made him an inspiring figure to many of his students. His publications - especially his polemic books, critical of the complacency of the psychological services - were outstanding examples of scholarly work that took an unmistakable, and passionate, position on social affairs.

I first met Mark in 1986 when he marched into my office at Lancaster University (Mark was not one for sidling in discreetly) and asked me if I knew anything about 'this discourse business'. I replied tentatively that I had heard of it (it was the beginning of the wave that was to sweep many of my generation towards CA). He reported that he was doing a PhD part time, while working as a clinical psychologist and that his data were 'quality of life' interviews that he was conducting with adults with intellectual impairments. 'The thing is', he went to say 'it's all b***s'.

His scepticism about the relation between the supposedly standardised question-and-answer exchange he was having with his clients, and the final numerical score that emerged from the questionnaire, was the trigger for what became a lifetime's devotion to the ethnomethodological sentiment. A quote from Garfinkel or Sacks was never too far away, even in the most banal conversation (which both men would have appreciated, no doubt), and his enviable record of publications shows that he brought the EM spirit into some hitherto unenlightened places - race, class, but especially the treatment of people with intellectual disabilities. The title *The Social Construction of Intellectual Disability* gives a flavour of the kind of approach he took.

Since that meeting in 1986, I was privileged to work with Mark on a number of occasions, and was the beneficiary of his generosity and friendship when I



spent three months in Brisbane in the late 80s. When he came back to the UK in 2005, it was in something of a triumph, becoming Director of the Clinical Psychology Programme at The University of East London - a significant managerial position that he thought someone as iconoclastic as he would never be allowed to hold. He was tireless in promoting the EM / CA spirit to his students (in spite of the frustrations of a not always sympathetic psychology establishment) and in publications with a variety of colleagues in the applied and professional world. His scholarly standards never wavered, and his energy was undimmed, even in the last months of his ravaging illness.

One of his last research meetings was with us in Loughborough, at one of our Discourse and Rhetoric Group meetings. He and one of his students brought a piece of data - on a sensitive and socially-charged issue, as would be Mark's wont - and he was back in his element of ethnomethodological speculation and happy disputation. I'm glad that we saw him in such good, and characteristic, spirits before the cancer ultimately claimed him. He was a staunch friend, a generous collaborator, and a passionate intellectual; we are all poorer for his loss.

Text provided by Charles Antaki, Loughborough University, 31 August 2012; photograph by Helen Winter

Drawn from *Ethno/CA News* by Paul ten Have with permission: <http://www.paultenhav.nl/IM%20Mark%20Rapley.html>

Meet EMCA Graduate Students From Around the World



Nadya Bobova, University of Trento

My name is Nadya Bobova and I am in the first year of the Doctoral School in Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento (Italy). I came here from Belarus where I got my degree in Information and Communication studies at the Belarusian State University in 2010.

During my studies in Belarus I was fascinated by the study of social interaction and particularly by methods of discourse and conversation analysis. Some of my ideas were appreciated by the class lecturer Sergey Sivuha, who inspired me to continue with my interest in this field.

Some months before the call for the Doctoral School of Trento was opened I had a chance to follow a class in conversation analysis held by professor Giolo Fele. During that class we had to analyze the emergency calls made to the regional fire brigade emergency center and in that period I realized that I wanted to spend the rest of my research time studying emergency communication and social interaction.

Now I am in my first year as a PhD student. Traditionally the Department of Sociology and Social Research of Trento is interested mostly in areas such as social inequality, social classes, education, etc. All the students are provided with support in doing their research and the first year is full of classes from classical sociological theories to agent-based modeling, so we have the opportunity to clear up our ideas about our future research. With this strong background, I will build my interests in ethnomethodology and conversation analysis.

At the moment I am working on Italian data, but in the future I would collect data also on emergency communication data from Belarus as well. Different languages, different cultures, different institutional contexts but the same communicative event (emergency) could help me to understand better how we do communicate and understand (or not) each other in real situations of interaction.

Robert Norrie, University of Queensland

I am Robert Norrie, a Linguistics Honours student at the University of Queensland (UQ) in Brisbane, Australia.

I became interested in linguistics about halfway through my undergraduate degree, whilst studying Russian and French. I was introduced to Conversation Analysis in a second year sociolinguistics course, which was taught by my current thesis supervisor, Dr. Ilana Mushin, and have been interested ever since.

My honours thesis is on the use of informings by children in an Indigenous primary school classroom. I am seeking to develop an understanding of informings (sharing a piece of factual information) as a speech practice and how they are formulated and employed by children within the context of the classroom, using CA as my primary method of analysis. My data comes from a larger corpus which is broadly looking at literacy and numeracy skills in an indigenous classroom - a project being coordinated by my supervisor.

I am undertaking my honours in the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies at UQ. The linguistics staff and research students have diverse areas of research working on a wide range of projects - but with a significant focus on Australian languages.



Giulia D'Alimonte, University of Trento

My name is Giulia D'Alimonte and I am attending the first year of the Doctoral School in Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento (Italy). I have a BA degree in Social Sciences (University of Padua, 2009) and a MA degree in Sociology and Social Research (University of Trento, 2012). I recently defended my EM and CA inspired thesis about training courses.

My interests concern communication and its structure, so I attended professor Giolo Fele's class about EM/CA. I also had the opportunity to meet professor Christian Heath who came to University of Trento in 2011; his lessons introduced me to the particular technique of video analysis, which completed my studies.

I was fascinated by these qualitative techniques. At first I studied emergency calls made to Police in Verona and then professor Fele offered me the opportunity to analyze some videos recorded during medical-emergency training sessions, which were part of a wider research project. I also decided to spend my Erasmus experience at University of Helsinki (Finland); professor Illka Arminen has been my MA co-supervisor and he proposed that I take part of the Anssi Peräkylä's data sessions and reading circles.

Because of my interests in research, I enrolled in the PhD here. The Department of Sociology and Social Research in Trento develops several fields of research, of which EM/CA is one of the most specialized and prestigious programs. The PhD is characterized by empirical research theoretically driven. At the moment I am planning to develop my doctorate with regard to political sciences; a different context in which communication has been studied with special attention to discourse analysis



Edward Reynolds, University of Queensland

I'm a former federal public servant, powerlifter, strength coach, amateur clown and breakdancer. That marvelous juxtaposition of categories hopefully does justice to my enthusiasm for learning and living. Anybody who has borne witness to some of my apparel or demeanour can hopefully attest to the same. I live in Canberra, the capital of Australia. Although having just submitted my thesis I hope to move internationally to pick up an academic role.

I came to the school of Journalism and Communication at the University of Queensland for two reasons; Richard Fitzgerald and to move into a vibrant and growing discipline. I completed my Masters at the Australian National University in Linguistics using CA, so I wanted to broaden my base into ethnomethodology and to be in a discipline that had the resources to fund research. Richard and the School of Journalism and Communication gave me both of those. Australian PhD's leave classes behind at the masters level, but the mentoring from Richard and my other advisors (Carly Butler, Sean Rintel and Rod Gardner variously across the degree) in conjunction with the local development provided by the Transcript analysis group supported and improved my analytic skills.

My dissertation, which I have submitted for examination just this week, uses a synthesis of the different ethnomethodological traditions in order to illustrate the way in which participants employ norms as resource for social action in the course of public arguments. Combining CA, MCA, embodied analysis, and discursive psychology I am synthesising these methods to describe the practice of 'enticing a challengeable'. This practice enacts challenges to normativity as social order in the course of an argument. Overall, the study grew from my interest in social psychology and the study of social conflict. Having published an analysis of the order of epistemics in the pre-sequence of the practice, I'm preparing work on a fuller sequential description, the embodied speaker selection, the crosscutting preference organisation, the manipulation of the natural attitude, the use of norms-in- action and a DP critique of a social psychology theory.

In addition to the EM study of conflict, violence and deception (my Masters topic and an earlier publication) I am also interested in the methods of coaching and teaching movement. I am prospectively developing coaching experience in powerlifting and strength and conditioning (of American Football) to one day study the way in which novices and experts exhibit, instruct and embody such methods. As a powerlifter, who can spot another powerlifter, in the gym simply by their squat or bench press I'm convinced of the benefits of unique adequacy for this study.

Overall, in terms of my interests, I'm a classic EMCA nerd who loves nothing more than debating the fineries of a social practice that we just overhead while having coffee (or in the Gym etc.).

I am a postgraduate research student at the University of Sydney, in Australia. I completed a Bachelor of Arts in English at The Ohio State University before migrating to Australia in 2005. I then taught ESL for a few years in Sydney and completed a Master's of Education (Applied Linguistics) at University of New South Wales. As part of this degree, I did an independent study under the supervision of Dr Alan Firth, who was visiting my university at the time. In this study, I used Conversation Analytic methods to analyse interactions in the language classroom context.

I came to the University of Sydney (USYD) after attending a conference talk by Dr. Ahmar Mahboob, from the Department of Linguistics, on using language variation studies (English as a lingua franca and World Englishes) to develop a new model for proficiency. I then approached him about the possibility of doing a PhD project. I met Dr. Scott Barnes, the associate supervisor of my project, through the data session group 'Conversation Analysis in Sydney' (CAIS).

My project looks at class sessions conducted at The Center for English Teaching at USYD, in which students from different levels in the General English program are brought together to complete a communicative task together. Because the idea for this type of session is quite new, I am interested in what the sessions look like from an interactional perspective, as well as participants' perspectives on the content and purpose of the sessions.



Alison Mills, Australian National University

My name is Alison Mills, and I am a PhD candidate at the Australian National University.

Coming from a background in high school English teaching, I undertook my Masters degree in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of Canberra. Here I developed an interest in linguistics, which I am now pursuing through my study at ANU. I am working in the School of Language Studies in the area of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics.

I studied the methodology of conversation analysis with Johanna Rendle-Short and am now looking at laughter in interactions. Using CA, I am examining radio interviews and analysing the laughter in these interactions. At the moment, I am focusing on the role of laughter in indexing epistemic status.



Andrei Korbut, Higher School of Economics

My name is Andrei Korbut. I'm a graduate student at the Sociology Faculty of the Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia). I choose the HSE in order to work with my supervisor, Svetlana Bankovskaya, one of the few Russian specialists in ethnomethodology. In my dissertation on "The Concept of Constitutive Order in Ethnomethodological Tradition," I try to clarify ethnomethodological understanding of order as embodied in EM studies. I also investigate university educational practices and calligraphy.

If you are not already a member, please consider becoming a member of

The American Sociological Association Section on

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

2013 Section Membership Form

For ASA membership information and to join –or– renew online, visit:
<http://www.asanet.org/members/join.cfm>

2013 ASA Membership Dues:

- Regular: \$50 - \$350 (sliding scale, based on income)
- Associate: \$100
- Student: \$50
- Emeritus: \$50
- International: \$55

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 2013 section dues (\$5.00 for students).

*Make checks payable to **American Sociological Association** (and please put "EMCA section dues" on the memo line of your check.*