

The Official Newsletter of the American Sociological Association Section on

EMCA Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

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Dear EMCA community,

Welcome to the Fall newsletter of the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section. With the ASA 2013 meeting behind us we are now preparing for the 2014 meetings in San Francisco and even the 2015 meetings in Chicago. We were delighted to see so many of you at the New York conference and hope that the Section can sustain and hopefully increase its membership over the coming years. Please see Clara Bergen's report on ASA 2013 on page 3 of this newsletter.

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The Call for Papers for ASA 2014 will open on December 6, 2013 and close January 8, 2014. The two section sessions will be organized by Doug Maynard. The Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis session will be organized by Virginia Gill. Bob Moore will organize an hour-long session before the business meeting. Please note that the best way to increase number of our sessions is having a large number of submissions to the regular session on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis organized by Virginia Gill. Keep that in mind when you submit. (we were allotted six additional sessions for this year's ASA! It would be great if we can repeat that performance).
(continued)

Recent Publications

More Studies in Ethnomethodology, by Kenneth Liberman. Foreword by Harold Garfinkel. 2013, State University of New York Press.

Introduction to Interaction: Understanding Talk in Formal and Informal Settings, by Angela Cora Garcia. 2013, Bloomsbury Academic.

Ethnographic Studies Issue 13 available now - Egon Bittner: Phenomenology in Action Memorial edition

Edited by Andrew P. Carlin and Roger S. Slack. With contributions by Ian G. Anderson, R. J. Anderson, Egon Bittner, Graham Button, Andrew P. Carlin, Aaron V. Cicourel, Douglas Harper, John R. E. Lee, Peter K. Manning, George Psathas, Howard Schwartz, W. W. Sharrock, Susan S. Silbey, Roger S. Slack, Roy Turner, Rod Watson and Maria Wowk

All back issues of Ethnographic Studies are available free online

Issue 14 now open for papers

Deadline for submissions: January 31, 2014

Publication date: June 2014

Send submissions (Word or RTF) to editorial@ethnographicstudies.org

Ethnographic Studies focuses on work in ethnography and ethnomethodology but it also provides a forum for sympathetic research in other human sciences, such as psychology and history. Its aim is to promote qualitative inquiry. The policy of the journal is to publish empirical studies but also theoretical and philosophical work which relates to current issues and debates in human sciences.

Chair's Message Continued

We will present two awards at the 2014 meetings, the EMCA Best Graduate Student Paper Award and the EMCA Best Paper Award. We are very grateful to Galina Bolden and Morana Alač for chairing the committees and to their committee members for this important contribution to our Section. The calls for submissions for the awards are included in this newsletter.

Graduate student day: For next year's meeting we will try something new - on the day before the ASA, August 15th, 2014, the Section will organize a research day for graduate students at the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). It will be a day in which graduate students interested in presenting their research materials can receive input from other graduate students and senior researchers. The day will include a tour of PARC and a presentation by representatives of PARC's social science group about corporate research. We urge interested graduate students to submit proposals. More details can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

We are pleased to continue to present more bios from graduate students in the EMCA field in this newsletter. We hope you enjoy their brief introductions of themselves and their research. If you know students who would like to be included in this series of profiles, please e-mail us.

Last summer the IEMCA conference was held in Waterloo, which was very well attended, and had four keynote presentations as well as many sessions. Please read Patrick Watson's report of the conference on page 4 of this newsletter.

As always, we are very grateful to Laura Loeb for her excellent job in editing the newsletter.

Yours,
Dirk vom Lehn & Erik Vinkhuyzen, co-chairs.

Conversation Analysis
Training Workshops
Loughborough University
2013-2014
Registration Open

7th Annual Conversation
Analysis Day
Loughborough University
December 16, 2013
Registration Full, Wait List
Available

4th International
Conference on
Conversation Analysis -
ICCA-14
University of California,
Los Angeles
June 25-29, 2014
Registration Open

International Society for
Gesture Studies, 6th
Conference
University of California,
San Diego
July 8-11, 2014
Submissions Due:
November 15, 2013

Ethnomethodology and
Conversation Analysis
Graduate Student
Workshop
Palo Alto Research Center
August 15, 2014
Submissions Due: February
1, 2014

American Sociological
Association Meeting
Hilton San Francisco
Union Square and Parc55
Wyndham Hotel
San Francisco, CA
August 16-19, 2014
Submissions Due: January
8, 2014

Reports on Recent EMCA Events

American Sociological Association 2013 Meeting Report

by Clara Bergen

The EMCA sessions had a wonderfully diverse lineup, ranging from the study of everyday greeting sequences in English, to displays of empathy in Japanese volunteer- evacuee interactions, to the negotiation of “intercultural moments” in multi-generation Russian immigrant families. As I’m still early in my graduate career, I was struck by the sheer number of different analytic and conceptual approaches individuals had to their work. The experience as a whole was eye opening - I felt that I was just beginning to get a sense of the astonishing breadth of the fields of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis. Particularly memorable were the set of scholars working on volunteer- evacuee interaction data drawn from a site outside Fukushima, Japan. Topics of study were specially fit for the distinct context of talk - presenters described the processes of demonstrating epistemic distance between speaker and recipient, the negotiation of action in multiple-activity (and multiple-role) talk, doing “complaining” while taking co-participants’ roles into account, and the sequence structure involved in showing empathy.

Some presenters approached very specific interactional phenomena, such as the use of “A” vs. “I” in questions in Polish and the use of name-quoting descriptors in Japanese, and picked apart the particular interactional contexts in which these phenomena were observed. Others approached their work from a different angle, analyzing particular interactional contexts to determine what speech tools participants most often used to accomplish communicative goals. Presenters approaching political interviews, for example, focused on the pursuit of answers to interviewer questions as well as the portrayal of legitimacy during interviewer questioning. From another angle altogether, one presenter focused on the process of reviewing EMCA literature, and making findings more accessible to outside parties. The conference was a huge success, and I’d like to thank everyone that made these sessions possible, from the organizers to the presenters, to the individuals that came to learn and show support for the future of EMCA in social sciences research. The future looks bright! I’m looking forward to the annual meeting next year, a little closer to home in San Francisco.



Satomi Kuroshima, Matylda Weidner, Tanya Romaniuk, Chase Wesley Raymond, Laura Loeb, Stephen DiDomenico (Photo Credit: S. DiDomenico)

Report of the 2013 IEMCA Conference: Technologies and Techniques

By Patrick Watson

In early August, over 160 faculty, researchers and grad students from 19 countries arrived in Waterloo, Canada for the 11th conference of the IEMCA. The conference was jointly organized by academics from the University of Waterloo and the host institution, Wilfrid Laurier University. Over four days, delegates explored the theme “Technologies and Techniques” with four exceptional keynote speakers, a host of EM/CA veterans and a vibrant and exciting collection of mid and early career researchers.

Nozomi Ikeya, Professor of Sociology at Keio University Japan, opened the conference. Her keynote, “Designing Change in an Organizational Context” examined an ongoing ethnographic project with Japanese rail companies looking for methods to organize information for easy retrieval. Geoff Raymond of University of California, Santa Barbara took to the big podium for day two’s keynote, “Opening Up Sequence Organization”. Prof. Raymond’s talk contributed to the recent interest amongst ethnos and conversation analysts in epistemics and social organization/displays of knowledge and authority. In the penultimate keynote, Prof. Stanley Raffel, University of Edinburg, asked questions of the moral implications of EM/CA research in light of Blum and McHugh’s self-reflective ‘analysis’. Prof. Richard Harper, Microsoft Research Cambridge, closed the conference by asking delegates to consider how they store, retrieve and understand their personal digital information and artifacts.

WLU’s Peter Eglin introduced the conference by discussing Canada’s contribution to EM/CA, and the diversity of scholarship that emerged from the University of British Columbia in the late 1960s and early 70s. While the group, which includes Eglin, James Heap, Dorothy Smith and others, dispersed both geographically and academically, they each remain active researchers and contributors to ethnographic and qualitative research. In a nod to the uniquely Canadian character of EM/CA, Eglin paid tribute to the host of affiliated friends who share our concerns with social scholarship while branching into different aspects of theory and research.

Their leader at UBC, Roy Turner, delivered what many will consider to be the highlight of the conference, an expansive discussion of Ethno’s early days, his experience with David Sudnow as doctoral students of Erving Goffman, his interactions with Garfinkel, Sacks, Cicourel, Schegloff and Zimmerman and the progress EM/CA research has made over the six decades since the famous Jury Study at Chicago. Turner asked numerous questions of importance to the continued enterprise of EM/CA research, concluding with a call to envision what comes next in light of repeated findings of social order at every turn.

The feedback we have received from delegates indicates the conference was an overwhelming success, for which we owe a debt of gratitude to the excellent quality and convivial spirit of our participants. We were witness to four days of the ‘state-of-the-art’ in EM/CA research, and we are happy to report that the organization is as healthy and vibrant as it has been in years. Always concerned with authenticity, many delegates asked the ubiquitous question - but is it ethno?, and we can conclude that this conference indeed was an exciting and dramatic display of contributions to EM/CA. We look forward to seeing everyone again in two years time - with announcements about that conference to be made soon!



Roy Turner



Mike Lynch and Dusan Bjelic



Janet Vertesi

Opportunities for ASA 2014

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Graduate Student Paper Award

This award recognizes an outstanding paper written by a graduate student. Submitted papers should address ethnomethodological and/or conversation analytic topics and literature and should read well as a stand-alone paper. Maximum length is 10,000 words (excluding references). We seek to support graduate students' original and best work, so we will consider unpublished papers or articles published in any journal or book. Co-authored papers are only acceptable if all authors are students. Only scholarly essays completed/published between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013 will be considered for the award that will be presented at the ASA 2014 EMCA section's business meeting in San Francisco. All nominees must be dues-paying members of the EMCA section (which requires ASA membership) for the year 2014. The Graduate Best Paper Award winner will receive \$300 travel reimbursement for the ASA annual meeting in New York.

Submission deadline: March 31, 2014. The award committee will be chaired by Galina Bolden (Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Rutgers University). To ensure the anonymity of the process, please send 2 versions of the paper, one anonymized, with subject ASA GRAD STUDENT PAPER to: Dirk vom Lehn (dirk.vom_Lehn@kcl.ac.uk)

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Best Paper Award

The ASA EMCA Best Paper award recognizes an outstanding journal article contributing to the field(s) of Ethnomethodology and/or Conversation Analysis. Eligible articles must be published between September 1, 2012 and March 31, 2014, and will be presented at the ASA 2014 EMCA section's business meeting in San Francisco. This year the award committee will be chaired by Morana Alac, (Associate Professor in Communication and Science Studies, UC San Diego), Doug MacBeth and Timothy Koschman will serve on the committee.

Please send submissions to Morana Alac (malac@ucsd.edu). Deadline: April 4th, 2013

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Graduate Student Workshop

The day before the 2014 ASA meeting in San Francisco (Friday, August 15, 2014) the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis section will organize a workshop for graduate students of the section at the Palo Alto Research Center.

The aim of the workshop will be to give graduate students an opportunity to present their research to a group of senior members of the section as well as other graduate students, in order to receive feedback and further their analysis. A number of senior researchers will attend, provide feedback, and lead the discussions.

To this end, we are seeking submissions from graduate students who are interested in presenting their research data. We encourage students to submit proposals of naturalistic video or audio data (i.e., preferably not from interviews), although we may consider applications that analyze documents and other artifacts. Participating graduate students will have at least one hour in which to present their data and receive feedback.

Applicants, please supply us with the following information by February 1st, 2014 to: erik@vinkhuyzen.com

- a) Your name and affiliation & a short bio
- b) The focus of your research, and what kind of data you'll bring related to that research
- c) What kind of equipment you will need to present your data

Meet EMCA Graduate Students From Around the World



Francesca Salvadori, Kings College, London

During my Undergraduate Degree of Business and Management in King's College London, I took a course in "*Communication in Organizations*" with Professor Jon Hindmarsh and "*Work, Communication and Technology*" with Professor Christian Heath and Professor Paul Luff. These two courses introduced me to the fascinating field of conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, and workplace studies. My initial interest in analyzing human behavior and mundane activities set forth a natural progression and led me to explore open plan office interaction, the everyday use of software, and office space design.

I have the fortune to work along side, Jon Hindmarsh and Christian Heath as my supervisors for my PhD thesis. I'm currently in my final year, exploring patterns of interaction and communication in the work of open plan office spaces. I'm interested in issues around awareness, collaboration, and the interplay between individual and collaborative work. Inevitably, my research looks at how technology features in collaborative work and explores how colleagues co-produce sense and significance of those technologies and artifacts (such as computers, note pads, telephones) for their work. These topics of interest resonate with contemporary research on work and interaction, and research on CSW that aim to improve the workplace and they also raise debates on HCI studies.

I presented a paper in the 2013 IEMCA Conference on initiating talk in open plan offices, unpacking the delicate interactional act of interruptions at work. I also plan on presenting another paper in the Workplace Interaction Panel of the 2014 ICCA, looking at issues around waiting to talk and coordinating openings in open plan offices.

I'm also part of the Work, Interaction and Technology Centre in King's College London, working with other members of this discipline. Being part of this group allows me to collaborate on various external projects, carrying out data sessions further expanding my analytic skills and interests in seemingly simple interactions.

Konysheva Darya, National Research University, Higher School of Economics, Moscow

My name is Konysheva Darya, I am a student on the second year of a magistracy, department of Sociology in The National Research University, Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow.

My involvement with Ethnomethodology happened rather unexpectedly. Five years ago I was engaged in studying problems of poverty in modern Russian society, and writing my theses "Vital strategy of needy segments of the population". The magistracy gave me the opportunity to begin life anew and to choose another research subject. I ran across a Forum which is taking place in Moscow for developers of video games. I was impressed by the scale of the created virtual worlds, and I learned that the market for video games is one of the most dynamically developing in the world, and that representatives of all social groups, young people, housewives, and businessmen act as players.

Now I study the influence of the virtual reality mediated by the computer on the daily behavior of the player. Harold Garfinkel's ethnomethodology and that of his followers provides resources to study such hybrid interactions. Massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) are the empirical focus of my work.

I have been developing this research for a year, and in the first results I already see the mutual influence of virtual reality and everyday life. According to the first data virtual worlds can have a positive impact, one example being the acquisition of skills useful for life (the study of foreign languages, ability to play an instrument, quick reading or training of memory). Examples of negative consequences are the transfer of negative emotions, cruel behavior to people around in real life, the emergence of fear of reality, and alienation.

Currently I am going to continue this research and to deepen this subject, and also to apply hybrid methodology, investigating with multiple methods.



Stephen DiDomenico, Rutgers University

My name is Stephen DiDomenico and I am a graduate student in the Department of Communication at Rutgers University. I was initially drawn to the study of discourse and interaction when I took several Linguistics courses on Discourse Analysis as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. Although my major was philosophy (where the emphasis is on canonical texts), I found the analysis of real-time, naturally occurring talk to be fascinating and unlike anything else I had encountered before. After graduating with my B.A. in 2007, I began an M.A. in Communication Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Taking a graduate course on Conversation Analysis with Irene Koshik was a profound experience for me and further coursework in Linguistics, Anthropology, and Communication Studies provided me a great appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of language and social interaction research. In 2009, I moved to the east coast to begin my Ph.D. at Rutgers under the mentorship of Galina Bolden, Jenny Mandelbaum, and Hartmut Mokros.

My research has broadly focused on investigations of communicative practices in everyday talk and institutional settings. Ultimately I am interested in generating rich, detailed accounts of how people accomplish actions, identities, and institutions through talk. To do this, I utilize analytic techniques from Conversation Analysis, Discourse Analysis, and the Ethnography of Communication. Some of my past and forthcoming research on discourse and interaction can be found in edited volumes related to technology use in everyday conversation, and discourse-analytic approaches to narrative genre.

Currently, I am in the early stages of my Ph.D. dissertation which examines interactions on help lines dedicated to crisis and suicide prevention. I use Conversation Analysis to document the communicative practices used by callers and call takers as they co-construct the assessment of a crisis (and possible subsequent intervention). I have also spent a great deal of time volunteering at several crisis help lines in the NJ/NYC area to further develop my understanding of the professional competencies associated with this domain. Eventually, I hope to translate the findings of this research into a collection of best practices and practitioner workshops that will lead to more effective communication on crisis help lines and in mental-health contexts more generally.



Matt Hollander, University of Wisconsin, Madison

My name is Matt Hollander, and I'm a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on the job market this fall. Although I've spent my grad school years at UW specializing in EMCA under Doug Maynard, my background is actually in music and I continue to play jazz and other types of music on the local scene in Madison. For me, music and social

phenomenology are in dialogue with each other, as each continues to teach me about the other. I hope to keep exploring these connections between my sociological and musical interests in the future.

In Madison, I've had the privilege of taking classes and seminars with Doug Maynard and Ceci Ford, as well as participate in numerous data sessions with graduate students and visiting professors such as Steve Clayman, Virginia Gill, Chuck Goodwin, Tim Halkowski, Lorenza Mondada, and others. My master's thesis, now a forthcoming paper co-authored with Doug Maynard, was on the interactional organization of conversational openings in academic survey interviews. My dissertation is entitled "The decisive moment: Directive sequences, resistance to authority, and the ethnomethodology of Milgram's experiment." It investigates civil disobedience by treating authority and (dis)obedience as phenomena of social interaction. I identify concrete practices by which authority may be resisted successfully, and try to shed light on how "obedient" and "disobedient" social actors account for these behaviors, both in the moment and subsequently. The database is a large collection of archived recordings of the most seminal social psychological investigation of these phenomena, Stanley Milgram's 1961-62 experiments on obedience to authority. A National Science Foundation dissertation development grant allowed me to obtain copies of these recordings. I see this research as relevant to the social psychology of obedience to authority and of heroism, as well as to EMCA research on directive-response sequencing, and hope to contribute to these research areas.

Finally, fellow UW grad student Jason Turowetz and I have been studying social interaction in speed dating. In 2009, we organized, hosted, and audio- and video-recorded three speed-dating events for UW undergraduates. In addition to the recordings, we gathered data in the form of questionnaires about attraction and interaction that daters filled out privately following each date, and semi-structured and audio-recorded interviews with each dater a few days after the event. So far we've published two papers from this project; one considers the structured practices by which daters assess their first-time experience of speed dating, and the other the organization of motives and how daters use a three-part conversational sequence for soliciting accounts for participation from each other. We hope in future studies to identify further social psychologically relevant findings about speed dating and first acquaintanceship in these various data sources. I am planning to defend my dissertation and graduate by May 2014.

EMCA

My name is Veronika Schoeb, currently living in Hong Kong, China, and completing my PhD degree at the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Nottingham, UK. It was a rather eventful and long road to get to this point, but it has always been inspiring.

I hold a first degree in Physiotherapy from Switzerland and worked for over 10 years in this field, both in Switzerland and in the USA. Moving to the USA in 1996 opened many opportunities to me. In 2001, I received my Master's degree in Health Care Administration (MHA) from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts. Equally important, I also gained work experience as a health professional and was able to compare the Swiss and American health system and their different work environments. During this time, I had the opportunity to get a better understanding about health systems, to participate in political debates, and to sharpen my research skills while at the same time meeting inspiring scholars. It also instilled a curiosity for new knowledge in me, and convinced me to venture out. An opportunity to participate in research projects brought me to New York City. I collaborated in two projects: (1) an outreach program for Chinese Seniors located at the Rusk Rehabilitation Center/NYU Medical Center, and (2) a HIV/AIDS prevention program for drug users in Lower Manhattan under the auspices of Beth Israel Hospital.

In 2002, I moved back to Switzerland to take up a faculty position in the School of Health Sciences (HESAV) at the University of Applied Sciences in Western Switzerland, Lausanne. But the idea of pursuing a PhD had already entered my mind. As I was interested in interaction research, I came across some articles of Conversation Analysis in health interaction. I thought that this approach might give me the necessary tools to understand what happens in this "black box" of interaction.

I performed a wide search and contacted various scholars in the field of CA to get their opinion on a potential PhD programme for me. It had to be a part-time programme, at distance and "À la carte". I found this wonderful combination at the University of Nottingham, UK, where I met with Prof. Alison Pilnick and Prof. Robert Dingwall. I started my studies in 2006, and soon after Dr. Ruth Parry joined the team of supervisors with her particular expertise of CA in the context of physiotherapy. My thesis looks at goal setting in physiotherapy. I am particularly interested in how therapists enquire about goals and how patients respond to those questions. The insights are important for health care practice as I am able to show how goal setting is not a cognitive process happening in the participants' minds, but rather an interactively achieved endeavour. While the PhD studies felt at times a very slow and lonely journey, I was delighted to meet CA researchers during all those years at various conferences and workshops. I am grateful to all those inspirational moments and look forward to bridging the field of sociology and health, having a foot on both sides.



Veronika Schoeb
University of Nottingham, UK

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

The American Sociological Association Section on

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

2014 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 2014 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.*