



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

Autumn 2015

Volume 8, Issue 3, p.1

Dear EMCA Community,

As we wind down the year, we want to thank everyone who helped make the 2015 ASA Chicago meeting a success: our presenters, session organizers, council members, award committees, social media personnel, and--last but not

least--our ever-engaged and enthusiastic membership who helped make for especially lively discussions this year. The section offered a number of events, including six paper sessions, a teaching workshop, a conference-wide thematic session on Garfinkel and gender, a business meeting, and a well-attended reception. Attendance was strong at the other events as well, ranging from 25-35 audience members at the paper sessions and workshop, to 40 at the business meeting, to 80 at the thematic session. While we continue to be a small section within ASA, we are a committed and resourceful one!

The 2016 ASA Seattle meeting is already shaping up in note-worthy ways. ...Con't on next page!

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At present, we have four EMCA paper session slots, and two workshops, one on teaching and the other on professional development for sociologists interested in non-academic career paths. We also hope to have a reception at the Tap House Grill (160 beers on tap!) for Saturday evening (still waiting to hear on this). Similar to last year, if we get a high number of paper submissions, we may be granted extra session slots. So keep the submissions coming in! **The deadline for submissions is January 6th, 3:00 PM EST.**

As for 2016 business, an issue that came up during the 2015 business meeting concerns the suggestion by some members to re-name the Life Time Achievement Award for Harold Garfinkel. In light of that discussion, we have designated a committee, headed by Doug Maynard, to research the issue and come up with a proposal that we can vote on as a section at the 2016 business meeting. As always, we invite our members to reach out to us during the year with issues and ideas so that, if need be, we can put them on the agenda.

We have recently received a query by the ASA Committee on Sections asking us to define the contributions that we make to ASA and to identify what we think are reasons for the small size of our section. We are interpreting this not as a challenge, but as an opportunity to convey our strengths. Our membership numbers, although small, have remained relatively stable over the past three years, and are currently at 129 for 2015. Moreover, we are a particularly active section with over 25% of our members presenting papers or acting as discussants at consistently well-attended sessions. However, if we are going to keep our presence at ASA, we do need to retain the members we have and recruit new ones – we actually did quite well last year with virtually everyone renewing when many sessions saw declines, some of which were quite steep. Please do take advantage of the winter break to check your membership is up to date and consider sponsoring your graduate students, where possible.

One last thing. Much as we have enjoyed serving the EMCA community for the last 18 months, all good things do come to an end and we need a willing individual or individuals to stand for election to chair the Section. Erik Vinkhuyzen is leading a Nominations Committee in this search, as well as looking for candidates for two vacancies as Section Council members. Please don't wait to be called or for your colleagues to volunteer you – make Erik's job easy and put your own name forward to tokyovink@gmail.com

Appropriate Seasonal Greetings to you all,

Mardi Kidwell

Robert Dingwall

EMCA

ASA 2016 Call for Papers

Call for papers, for the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Conference.

Rethinking Social Movements: Can changing the conversation change the world? Seattle, USA. August 20-23, 2016

Deadline for submissions Jan 6th, 2016, 3pm EST.
<http://www.asanet.org/AM2016/callforpapers.cfm>



ASA 2016 Call for Award Nominations

Deadline: March 1st, 2016

More details: http://www.asanet.org/sections/ethnomethodology_awards.cfm

Please submit nominations to committee chairs

Melvin Pollner (1940-2007) Prize in Ethnomethodology - Chair, Darin Weinberg,
dtw23@cam.ac.uk

EMCA Distinguished Paper Award - Chair, Philippe Sormani,
philippe.sormani@institutosvizzero.it

EMCA Lifetime Achievement Award - Chair, Peter Eglin, peglin@wlu.ca

EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award - Chair, Tanya Stivers, stivers@soc.ucla.edu

ASA 2015 Reflections



*ASA photos courtesy of Joseph Webb, of Nottingham University, UK

Dagoberto Cortez, University of Wisconsin, USA

The 110th meeting of the American Sociological Association took place in one of my favorite U.S. cities—Chicago, Illinois. Scholars from across the world congregated once again to attend and present at the EMCA section panels. It was fascinating, if a bit intimidating, to go through the ASA online program, read all the abstracts, and note the incredible range of topics EMCA talks covered.

This year's meeting was the first time I presented at ASA and at an EMCA paper session. While receiving feedback from the session organizer and presenting in front of prominent EMCA scholars were a bit nerve-wracking, these experiences also helped me fully realize how important it is to present our work to the field. The paper I presented, about oncologists' proposals that current treatments for cancer have exhausted their usefulness for the patient, will become much stronger given the robust feedback I received pre- and post-conference. For all of my apprehensions about presenting, I found the actual talk and Q&A portion thoroughly enjoyable. The scholars in the room were very welcoming and engaged. They asked great questions and were extremely encouraging when I met them informally at the session's conclusion. My paper comes out of a joint project with my advisor, Doug Maynard, and a palliative care physician, Dr. Toby Campbell, in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School. **Con't next page!...**

EMCA:ASA

Dagoberto Cortez, con't

Presenting was a great experience, but for me, attending other people's talks to engage with their work also made this year's ASA memorable. I particularly appreciated several papers that highlighted how EMCA can lend to better understanding issues facing our societies today. There is no doubt in my mind that the empirically driven features of EMCA have real-world implications. It is not only the community of sociologists who can benefit from these investigations, but also non-academics, who are concerned with a variety of social issues such as interactions with police, prejudice and stereotypes, state violence, etc. I hope my own work in oncology and palliative care will also have applications. This year's sessions firmly reinforced this possibility.

Going to section sessions also provided the opportunity to meet other graduate students and to discuss with them the dynamics of the conference as well as what research they are working on. Other highlights included the awards ceremony and the teaching workshop organized by **Virginia Gill** and **Ruth Parry**. It was announced that next year's meeting will have another such workshop. I look forward to attending future EMCA sessions and hope to continue to meet more scholars next year. See you in Seattle!



Recent Books

Alvanoudi, A. (2015) *Grammatical Gender in Interaction: Cultural and cognitive aspects*. Brill Press.

Bilmes, J. (2015) *The structure of meaning in talk: Explorations in category analysis. Volume 1: Co-categorization, contrast, and hierarchy*. <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~bilmes/>

Chevalier, F.H.G & Moore, J. (eds.) (2015) *Producing and Managing Restricted Activities: Avoidance and withholding in institutional interaction*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Deppermann, A. & Günthner, S. (2015) *Temporality in Interaction*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Doehler, S., De Stefani, E., & Horlacher, A.-S. (2015) *Time and Emergence in Grammar: Dislocation, topicalization and hanging topic in French talk-in-interaction*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Forrester, M.A. (2015) *Early social interaction: A case comparison of developmental pragmatics and psychoanalytic theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Joseph Webb, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

The ASA conference ticked off a number of firsts for me. It was the first time I'd been to the U.S.A, it was the first time I'd been to a conference of this scale, and it was the first time I had attended a sociological conference with such a diverse selection of EMCA presentations. I didn't know what to expect of a conference this size but any concerns proved unfounded as the majority of the EMCA based talks were always located in the same rooms in the historic Chicago Hilton. This had the effect of attending a conference within a

conference. It also made it far easier to meet people and start to put faces to names hitherto only known from papers and reference lists. It was a wonderful experience to listen to presenters whose work I had followed for years from the confines of my PhD desk.

Thankfully my presentation entitled 'Speaking on behalf of patients in group interactions in an intellectual disability medical care setting' was on the second day, which allowed me to enjoy the remainder of the conference without the dread that public speaking can engender. I was really excited to share the work I'd been doing on the use of 'imagined constructed inner dialogue' to speak as a non-present patient with intellectual disabilities, and the variety of actions this could perform. Despite being on a Sunday morning, there was a good turnout which attested to the endurance and interest EMCA enthusiasts have!

...Con't Next Page!



Special Issues CFPs

Proposed special issue for Journal of Pragmatics - Im/politeness and globalisation.
Email Maria Sifianou, msifian@enl.uoa.gr
DEADLINE for abstracts: December 31st, 2015

Call for proposals for special issue of Linguistics and Education.
Email David Poveda, from: <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/linguistics-and-education>
DEADLINE for proposals: December 2015



Joseph Webb Con't

What really struck me about the EMCA sessions at the conference was the sheer variety of topics and the creative ways in which EMCA was used in such broad areas of research. This page could be filled with fantastic presentations, but for the sake of brevity and in recognition of the fact I have only 500 words (and a PhD to write) I will be brief.

Elliot Hoey gave a really insightful and wonderfully detailed analysis on resources for lapse management in incipient talk. There was also a fascinating talk delivered by **Kevin Whitehead** on the moral accountability of the invocation of stereotypes in conversation. **Tanya Stivers** gave a wonderful presentation on proposals for collaboration in children's interactions and how they recruit others into their proposed activities. I also particularly loved **Virginia Teas Gill's** presentation on how options are presented in discussion about surgical treatments for breast cancer. This was a great talk and was a fantastic demonstration of the practical function and use of CA in an applied perspective, and the important work it can be used to do to untangle and

understand everyday practices with big implications. A personal highlight was a presentation by **Chase Wesley Raymond** and **John Heritage** on types of apology formats, and the proportionality between apologies and the offenses they relate to and the role relational and contextual factors play in apology construction. It unravelled a universally recognisable act and had the slightly dislocating effect of making me flashback for days to come every time I gave or received an apology. I may never give an apology again without a faraway look in my eye, for which I apologise to my wife in advance.

Congratulations and thanks are due to all the chairpersons and the session organisers for all their hardwork, and the presenters for their wonderful research.

Recent Books Con't

Jefferson, G. (2015) *Talking about troubles in conversation*. Drew, P., Heritage, J., Lerner, G. & Pomerantz, A. (eds). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Thompson, S.A., Fox, B.A. & Couper-Kuhlen, E. (2015) *Grammar in everyday talk: Building responsive actions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tileagă, C. & Stokoe, E. (eds.) (2016) *Discursive psychology: Classic and contemporary issues*. Abingdon: Routledge.

EMCA

Emily Hofstetter, Loughborough University, UK

The IEMCA conference in Kolding 2015 was so fun that I seized the opportunity to write the report on the conference for myself. The organizers absolutely ran with the theme of embodied interaction and the material world, and the panels were overflowing with high quality examples of the embodied work being done in EMCA today. Thank you to all the organizers and volunteers!

Let's begin with an early portion of a lot of conferences: the conference bag. Inside, besides the usual pamphlets, were a sticky-note pad, a handful of Lego, and a water bottle (to cut down on plastic bottle waste). The toys were for the embodied projects scattered around the conference building. The sticky notes were for writing messages and making images on a public whiteboard. The Lego were for a Lego play space that evolved (and grew taller and taller) throughout the conference. The Lego play space was also filmed for data – I'm sure we're all keen to see that presentation at the next IEMCA. Besides these were sandboxes for 'zen' sand gardening, and origami stations. All of these were a delightful way to meet new people and to literally play with the very concepts we were discussing so academically in panel rooms.

The programme was truly replete with excellent panels, so it is hard to narrow down to just a few. My favourites were the Membership Categorization Analysis panel and the Human-Robot Interaction panel. ...**Con't Next Page!**



***IEMCA photos courtesy of Nanami Nakamura,
University of Southern Denmark**

EMCA

Calls for Papers

8th International Conference on Conversation Analysis and Psychotherapy (ICCAP). University of Helsinki, Finland. Jun. 8-10, 2016. <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/iccap-2016/>
DEADLINE for abstracts (papers & data sessions) December 18th, 2015

2nd Conference of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics (IACS). Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Poland. Jun. 20-22, 2016. <http://iacs2016.umcs.lublin.pl/>
DEADLINE for abstracts (papers & posters) January 10th, 2016

Emily Hofstetter Con't

The MCA panel was a wonderful mix of new research and commemoration of **Stephen Hester**. **Robin Smith**'s analysis explored how cyclists and drivers can negotiate spatial categories, and pointed out that not all categorization analysis is necessarily of people, but can also be of space. **Carly Butler**'s presentation raised an important question about the various 'stances' (epistemic, deontic, etc.) in the literature: most stances rely on membership categorizations in order to index a person's rights to a stance, so why don't these studies discuss MCA? In the robot interaction panel, **Raphaella Gehle et al.**'s fascinating presentation demonstrated how robots need to be skilled in interaction, lest the human participants get frustrated or confused. **Kerstin Fischer et al.**'s presentation showed how correct gaze usage (on the part of the robot) can increase the efficiency and apparent happiness of the human participants.



Other excellent presentations included (this is a *very* brief list): **Adam Brandt** and **Alan Firth**'s presentation on the resources used in haggling interactions; **Spencer Hazel**'s demonstration of the difficulty of accurately recreating 'natural' actions like passing out slices of cake in a theatrical performance; and **Chloé Mondémé**'s exploration of how EMCA can be used to analyze human-dog interactions and to further develop a more interactive understanding of joint attention.

Although the data sessions were poorly attended, I think they deserve praise. Conferences offer us a unique opportunity to receive insights from new faces and distant colleagues. Those that did attend and present had a highly enjoyable time, and recommended that some data sessions actually be conducted in the language of study in the future.

Finally, while the menu is rarely discussed in these reports, I think it is absolutely essential to highlight the



amazing meals that were offered. In light of the theme of multimodality and embodied action, the conference organizers (and culinary staff) gave every meal its own tactile experience. There were bagged lunches, buffets, barbecues, and more. The *pièce de résistance* was the conference dinner, which involved course after course of different eating adventures (with different cutlery and serving devices, too). Besides this fantastic union of academic questioning and gastronomy, I might add that the food itself was delicious.

New Journal – Research on Children and Social Interaction, edited by Carly Butler

Research on Children and Social Interaction (RoCSI) is an interdisciplinary international peer-reviewed journal that will publish high-quality research on the interactions of children and young people. The aim of RoCSI is to advance the study of children's social interaction as a topic in its own right, and to promote the use of interactional approaches to address a range of issues in the study of children and childhood. RoCSI invites papers that explore children's social practices, actions, and understandings in everyday social interaction.

Michael Flaherty has become a Deputy Editor at Social Psychology Quarterly

Michael Flaherty is a long-time member of the EMCA Section of the ASA. While he was editor of Symbolic Interaction (1996-1999), that journal published articles by Melvin Pollner, Angela Garcia, and other CA scholars. Currently, Flaherty is serving as one of the Deputy Editors for Social Psychology Quarterly (SPQ). Publishing in SPQ enables an author to reach a large and diverse audience that includes a great many scholars who are interested in the study of social interaction. SPQ has a 2014 impact factor of 1.406 and a five-year impact factor of 3.276. Members of the EMCA Section of the ASA are encouraged to submit their empirically grounded manuscripts to Social Psychology Quarterly.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 16-17, 2015, Bristol University, UK: **Introduction to using CA to study health care.** <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/social-community-medicine/shortcourse/ssconvanal.html>

Jan. 6-8, 2016, York St. John University and University of York, UK: **24th Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE XXIV)** <https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/consolexxiv/>

Jan. 21-22, 2016, Loughborough University, UK: **CARM Training for Professional and Workplace Communication Encounters** <http://www.adozeneggs.co.uk/carm-training/>

Jan. 22, 2016, University of Groningen, The Netherlands: **2nd Groningen Symposium on Language and Social Interaction (GSLI) – Interaction and Health Care** www.gсли.nl

Jun. 8-10, 2016, University of Helsinki, Finland: **8th International Conference on Conversation Analysis and Psychotherapy (ICCAP)** <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/iccap-2016/>

Jul. 3-5, 2016, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark: **Atypical Interaction Conference** <https://sites.google.com/site/atypicalinteractionconference/>

Jul. 11-14, 2016, University of Groningen, The Netherlands: **International Academy for Conversation Analysis** <http://www.iaca16.nl>

Jul. 18-22, 2016, Sorbonne Nouvelle University, France: **International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS) Gesture-Creativity-Multimodality** <http://www.gesturestudies.com/conferencesfuture.php>

Aug. 20-23, 2016, Seattle, USA: **Annual Meeting of the ASA**





Annerose Willemsen, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

My name is Annerose Willemsen and I am a first-year PhD student in the Research Department of Discourse and Communication at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

I have a BA in Dutch Language and Culture and a MA in Language and Cognition (research), both obtained at the University of Groningen. It was during my Bachelor studies that I encountered Conversation Analysis for the first time. I had always been interested in interaction and in the ways people try to convey messages to others, but CA gave me the means to actually analyze interaction on a professional

level. I loved being able to look at conversation in a detailed and structured manner and I decided to take more CA courses during my masters.

In February 2015, I started working as a PhD student, researching joint reasoning on the basis of texts in reading comprehension lessons and social sciences lessons in upper primary school. By means of this research I am attempting to find out how classroom discussions about text can be (or need to be) fostered in order to create an informative environment in which students are being provided with context and in which they can reason overtly and share their ideas, interpretations and opinions with each other.

David Monteiro, University of Basel, Switzerland

My name is David Monteiro and I am a second-year PhD student of Linguistics at the University of Basel (Switzerland); there, I am part of a team of doctoral students being trained in data collection and analysis and working on a wide diversity of languages, settings and topics of conversation analytic inquiry under the supervision of Lorenza Mondada.

My PhD project focuses on service encounters organized in social work settings: on the basis of clients' reportings of prior episodes of their personal and institutional lives, as well as on the basis of documental evidence, clients and professionals convert problems into institutional cases, constantly displaying an orientation to past issues as well as to future solutions concerning the cases at hand.

I was first introduced to works in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis when completing my BA in Linguistics in Portugal, upon starting to transcribe audio recordings of social work encounters (the only naturalistic interactional data being worked on at my department at that time). Fascinated by the 'emic' character of this approach and inspired by Gail Jefferson's method for transcribing interaction, as well as by her work on talking about trouble, I became interested in how do participants locally manage their participation in the interaction while displaying an orientation to an overall organization of the encounter.

The PhD that I started in Basel is not only a natural continuation of the work started in Portugal (where this approach is almost not practiced, there being no in-depth interactional studies of European Portuguese), but also something radically other, in the sense that it challenges me to take further the scope of its inquiry by taking into account the local relevance of embodied and material resources for participating in social work encounters.

Minéia Frezza, Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos, Brazil

I am Minéia Frezza, a first year PhD student in the Department of Applied Linguistics at Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS), Brazil. I was introduced to ethnomethodology and conversation analysis by my professor and supervisor Ana Cristina Ostermann. When I was an undergraduate student of Languages, I got to be one of Ostermann's research assistants, developing a research study about accounts on a Brazilian helpline service that provides health information.

My masters research also derived from another project developed by Professor Ostermann. We analysed the delivery of diagnostic news in genetic counselling sessions about fetus formation. I am currently looking at the same context I analysed at the masters program. However, for my PhD, I'm analysing ultrasound exams now.

Because information is crucial for determining a patient's decisions, the study I'm developing aims at describing information delivery and displays of understanding in order to observe what information is given in these consultations, and how. Besides that, I am also interested in investigating how the information is recipient designed (or not). I am looking forward developing a study that contributes not only to the field of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, but also to the formation of better interactional practices of health professionals.



Sophie Schäfer, Goethe University, Germany

I am a PhD student in Sociology at Goethe University in Frankfurt/Germany. I received my degree in Social Sciences at University Koblenz-Landau. Predominantly, I was focusing Political science rather than Sociology. When I decided to start a PhD, I was interested in Parliamentary discourse, specifically regarding the topic of Muslims and Islam. At this point, I still had not settled yet for a methodological framework, but I was sure to stay in Political Science and then finally I found myself within Sociology.

Through my supervisor Thomas Scheffer I came across Ethnomethodology, Conversation Analysis and Membership Categorisation Analysis and started studying them. My research objective is to analyse how Muslims are portrayed in three selected German Parliamentary debates, which I am treating as case studies. In particular I am looking at how the category is negotiated sequentially by the members (here the politicians), and also how the debate is connected in a so-called media dialogical network. These ethnomethodological approaches seem to perfectly fit my purpose to work out the members' categorization practices in the Parliament and to gain insights into the democratic culture. So, I am trying to gain comprehensive patterns and hypotheses that might apply across my three case studies.





Daniela Negraes Pinheiro Andrade, Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos, Brazil

Hello! I'm a last-year-PhD student from an Applied Linguistic graduation program at UNISINOS, a university in the south of Brazil. I research interactions between cardiovascular-disease patients and health providers (doctor, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists and nutritionists) in the context of an educational program for good health practices.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more people die annually from cardiovascular diseases (CVD) than from any other cause. As a matter of exemplifying the impact of DCV on the number of deaths globally, the WHO estimates that, in 2008, about 17.3 million people died victims from some type of DCV (e.g., coronary syndrome, heart-failure,

stroke etc.). DCV, when not under control, also negatively impact patients' quality of life leading to repeated hospitalizations, high rates of work absenteeism and early retirement. Risk factor control (e.g., appropriate diet, physiotherapy, smoke cessation, medicine administration etc.), which depends on patients and/or care takers' effort to accomplish, is of paramount importance to avoid heart-disease patients' health deterioration and, consequently, to improve patients' quality of life.

Understanding how heart-disease patients (and/or care takers) and health providers mutually make sense of what they are doing in situation of talk in interaction in the context of educational programs is important in so far as patients show resistance when health providers provide generalized information on how to control risk factors aimed to stabilize their health conditions. That is why the focus of my research relies on what extent professionals particularize (or not) their talk beyond the principle of reciprocity design, which is crucial to all intelligible conversations. In other words, I'm interested in discovering if and how professionals deliver information on good health practice (e.g., if they take into account patients' past experiences on how to manage risk factors). I believe no other methodological theory is more appropriate to investigate how participants interact in this context (as much as in any other) than Conversation Analysis, which relies on members' ethnomethods to accomplish action in the world. Besides doing research, I enjoy being with my family and friends, mainly when there is "good" food and "good" music involved.

**Submit your biography and get it published in the EMCA
Section Newsletter!**

You or your graduate students should consider writing a biography for the newsletter. We're always looking for more biographies.

Please submit to them to the newsletter editor, Emily Hofstetter, at e.c.hofstetter@lboro.ac.uk. We'll put it in the next available slot!

EMCA

**You should become a
member of**

**The American Sociological Association
Section on Ethnomethodology and
Conversation Analysis**

Section Membership Form

For ASA Membership information and to join *or* renew online, visit:

<http://www.asanet.org/members/join.cfm>

ASA Membership Dues

Regular \$50-\$350

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Associate \$100

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I am an ASA Member and want to join the **Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section**.

Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students) for 2015 section dues.

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

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