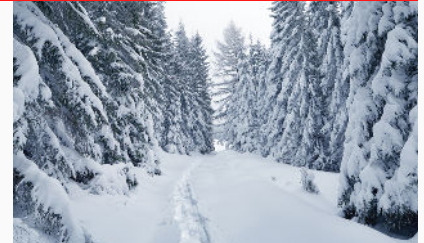


EMCA NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the American Sociological Association's section on
Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

Message From the Chairs

Danielle Pillet-Shore and Jason Turowetz



Call for Papers, ASA 2024

In our last newsletter, we issued a call for paper submissions to our Section Sessions (and Regular Sessions) for the 2024 ASA Meetings, which will be held in Montreal. We have consistently seen strong attendance at the annual meeting and we look forward to an engaging set of presentations this year!

The panel options are described below and we encourage everyone to submit in hopes of adding further panels. The submissions portal is now open and will close on Monday, **February 26, 2024 at 11:59pm EST**. Submitters may elect to submit either full papers or extended abstracts. If you submit an abstract and it is accepted, you will need to send the full paper the session participants at least one month before the Annual Meeting. We strongly urge you to list the Section or Regular session alternatives as your second choices so that we can program as many papers as possible! (Please contact Section session organizers Jason Turowetz [jason.turowetz@gmail.com] and Danielle Pillet-Shore [danielle.pillet-shore@unh.edu], and/or Regular session organizer Gordon Chang [gcchangucsd@gmail.com] if you need help). For more information:

<https://www.asanet.org/2024-annual-meeting/call-for-submissions/>

ASA's submission process is straightforward with one exception: When you submit, you are first asked to select either "Regular Session on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis" or a "Section Session." The regular session is organized by Gordon Chang [gchangucsd@gmail.com]. The section sessions are organized by Danielle Pillet-Shore (Danielle.Pillet-Shore@unh.edu) and Jason Turowetz (jasonturowetz@gmail.com). We encourage papers that are reporting your new work using EM and/or CA methods in all of these sessions. The organizers will work together to place papers in panels.

The section has two panels currently: "New Directions in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis" and "Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis." We welcome research that utilizes other methods but would be of interest to our section's membership.

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Please visit our website for more
information:

<http://asa-emca.blogspot.com>

ASA GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

You can gift an ASA membership to students, or a section membership to existing ASA members of any membership type.

Purchase a gift ASA membership for students: once you have accessed the member portal, click “purchase a gift membership for a student” under contribute/give. Search for the student by name. You can also create a new contact record if you can’t find the student in the database. Your gift will be redeemable by the recipient. The recipient will receive an email with the gift credit immediately after your purchase. Recipients will need to complete a membership form through the ASA member portal in order to redeem their gift membership.

Purchase a gift section membership: once you have accessed the member portal, click “purchase a gift section membership” under contribute/give. Select the section and search for your recipient by first and last name. Section membership requires a current ASA membership. Only ASA members who do not already have a membership in that section are eligible to receive the gift. Immediately after you make your payment, the recipient will receive an email that includes your name along with the notification of the section gift. Recipients do not need to take any action to redeem gift section memberships.

Gift memberships are not refundable. Gift memberships are not tax deductible.

Join us for our Winter Webinar!

Join us **March 7, 2024 (Thursday) at 9:30 AM (PST)** for a webinar entitled “**Politeness, Formality, and Authority in Police Encounters: The Case of Address Terms**” with André Buscariolli, PhD candidate in Sociology (University of California, Santa Barbara).

ABSTRACT

The quality of treatment that civilians receive from law enforcement agents shapes views about the police—particularly, previous studies found that respectful communication fosters positive police-community relations (Mazerolle et al., 2013; Tyler, 1990). Yet, current scholarship lacks a detailed account of when, how, and why officers employ more respectful (or disrespectful), formal (or informal), and polite (or impolite) ways of speaking amidst their exchanges with the public. This article discusses the situational contingencies officers attend to while shifting between different communication forms, using address terms as a case study. It proposes that officers’ lexical choices stand in a mutually constitutive relationship with the ongoing interaction order (Goffman, 1983). By shifting between formal and informal address terms, police officers cast contrasting definitions of the ongoing interaction, including with respect to participants’ rights and responsibilities. For instance, in contexts where officers are escalating their authority – for example, when pursuing successive directives – adding “sir” invokes an institutional framework within which officers can demand compliance. On the other hand, officers may employ more informal address terms (“dude,” “man,” etc.) to de-escalate the encounter in response to complaints about overstepping their scope of authority. In this way, address terms derive meaning from the quality of the interaction at hand while further qualifying it.

Recap of our Fall Webinar with Robin Smith and Terry Au-Yeung (Cardiff University)

Thank you to all those who attended our first webinar of the academic year, **"Membership Categorisation Practices and Gestalt Contexture: Describing the Practical Assembly of Context and Collectivity."**

We were excited to kick off this year's webinar series with an engaging presentation and discussion led by Robin Smith and Terry Au-Yeung (Cardiff University). Drawing on their current research, the event walked participants through the need to understand membership categorization practices as inexorable from their context. In the course of the talk, they put contemporary work in membership categorization analysis in conversation with classic examples from the work of Harvey Sacks and Harold Garfinkel. The event attracted 39 participants from both sides of the Atlantic, yielding a generative discussion.



We hold webinars three times a year to create spaces beyond the ASA annual meeting for section members to connect with each other and discuss the nuts and bolts of interaction research. Although all members are welcome to attend, the webinars specifically target student members as well as graduate and professional students. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our newsletter editors, André and Andrew, who are also coordinating the webinars, if you have any ideas or feedback.

Upcoming Event of Interest

International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis (IEMCA), 2024

Mark your calendars for the International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis (IEMCA) at Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea. IEMCA 2024 will take place June 25-28. The early bird registration deadline is April 30.

More information on their [website](#).

CALL FOR 2024 EMCA SECTION AWARDS

The EMCA section is requesting nominations for the following awards to be given at the 2024 ASA Annual Meeting in Montreal.

Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship

This award recognizes those who have made distinguished lifetime career contributions to the fields of ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. To nominate an individual for this award, please submit: 1) A letter detailing the nominee's contributions to EMCA; 2) Relevant supporting materials, including a list of the nominee's publications; and 3) At least two additional external letters speaking to the person's contributions and impact on the field(s). Please send nominations to Committee Chair Waverly Duck (waverly_duck@ucsb.edu) by **March 1, 2024**.

EMCA Distinguished Paper Award

This award recognizes an outstanding publication contributing to ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. The 2024 award will be given to a published article. Eligible papers for the 2024 award must be published between September 1, 2021 and February 29, 2024, inclusively. Authors can submit their own publications, or nominations can be made on their behalf. Committee members may also make their own nominations. Nominations must include 1) full bibliographic information on the nominated article; and 2) a PDF copy (preferable) or a hard copy of the article; or a link to a website where the article can be downloaded in full at no charge. Please send nominations to Committee Chair Sarah Hitzler (sarah.hitzler@uni-bielefeld.de) by **March 1, 2024**.

The Melvin Pollner Prize in Ethnomethodology

The Melvin Pollner Prize in Ethnomethodology honors the intellectual spirit and memory of Melvin Pollner. The \$1000 award recognizes an article, chapter, or book published between September 1, 2021-February 29, 2024, inclusively, that develops original work drawing upon, or resonant with, Melvin Pollner's ethnomethodological interests in topics such as mundane reason, reality disjunctures, radical reflexivity, and the connections and contributions of ethnomethodology to other types of sociology. Nominations must include 1) full bibliographic information on the nominated article, chapter or book; and 2) a PDF copy (preferable) or a hard copy of the article, chapter or book; or a link to a website where the article, chapter or book can be downloaded in full at no charge. Committee members may also make their own nominations. Please send nominations to Committee Chair Patrick Watson (patrick.watson@utoronto.ca) by **March 1, 2024**.

EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award

This award recognizes an outstanding graduate student paper (either published or unpublished) that contributes to ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. Eligible papers for the 2024 award must have been published or written between September 1, 2021 and February 29, 2024, inclusively. Authors can submit their own publications/papers, or nominations can be made on their behalf. Committee members may also make their own nominations. Please note: only graduate students who are current EMCA section members are eligible for this award. Section membership must be valid by the March 1 submission deadline. Nominations must include 1) full bibliographic information on the nominated article; and 2) a PDF copy (preferable) or a hard copy of the article; or a link to a website where the article can be downloaded in full at no charge. Please send nominations to Committee Chair Sylvaine Tuncer (sylvaine.tuncer@kcl.ac.uk) by **March 1, 2024**.

For a list of previous award winners, click [here](#)!

Student Spotlight: Oded Marom (University of Southern California)

Politics has become a bitterly contentious field. In the past decades, people have grown increasingly intolerant towards those outside their political group, rejecting any notion of political compromise and bipartisan collaboration. In my ethnographic work, I address this problem by asking how group culture and the relationships people form with one another can make them more willing to compromise and collaborate with others, even when they disagree with them politically.

To answer these questions, I conducted four years of participant observation and 12 focus groups with two political associations representing distinct forms in which American libertarian activists organize to garner political power and realize their political ideals. The first case is The Free State Project. This radical migration movement has attracted 5,000 free market libertarians to New Hampshire, intending to create an ideal libertarian community and take over the state. The second case is an “intellectual society” of people in the Los Angeles area interested in libertarian ideas who meet regularly in various settings to discuss their shared interests. Although the two groups uphold the same political ideals, in theory, I found that their different cultural, interactional, and organizational contexts lead to distinct interpretations of these ideals, with meaningful implications for how each group becomes engaged in politics. Most importantly, it shapes members’ understanding of their relationships with other political groups. Thus, I found that, despite their salient political identity and high levels of ideological commitments, members of the radical Free State Project were more willing to compromise, collaborate, and even identify with Democrats and Republicans than their Los Angeles counterparts. The communal nature of their political organizing led these activists to imagine political success as contingent on maintaining good relationships with their neighbors, making them look for commonalities with liberals and conservatives in their environment and prefer pragmatic compromise over partisan purity.



I theorize these findings in my recently published article in *Sociological Theory*: [“Situational Orders: Interaction Patterns and the Standards for Evaluating Public Discourse.”](#)

Faculty Spotlight: Gordon Chang (Western Illinois University)



I am currently Professor of Sociology at Western Illinois University and direct the Sociology MA program. My main research interest has been the subject of ideas, and relatedly, how thinking processes work to create ideas. People across all areas of life think differently in ordinary and so-called extraordinary contexts. Thus I was very interested in how “unusual” subjects and institutions develop and execute thinking processes, especially artful epistemic practices. These activities are highly subtle and reflexive—they must be sufficiently “rational” for others to make sense of the ideas, if not to reenact them in new contexts. In my book, *Revolution and Witchcraft: The Code of Ideology in Unsettled Times* (2023), I looked at people’s thinking during Europe’s witch-hunts, the post-1950 era revolutionary movements in China under Mao, and the U.S. War on Terror following 9/11. Besides highlighting the extreme, diverse capabilities of humans, the book was primarily theoretical and methodological in nature. I worked toward a general “codification” approach that makes people see and unpack the detailed, step-by-step thinking

processes using textual discourse data. Ethnomethodology has influenced my work at a genetic level, and I am honored to have been elected as an ASA EMCA Section council member.