

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



Summer 2018

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## A message from Ken and Aug:

Dear EMCA Community,

We are very pleased to announce that Anne Rawls (Bentley College) and Morana Alac (UCSD) have been elected as the next co-chairs of our Section. Anne is one of EMCA's most well-known scholars, having edited Garfinkel's volumes, organized his posthumous papers, and published her own EMCA papers; besides, she is one of the founders of our Section, and this is the second time she will serve as our co-chair. Morana won the EMCA Best Book Award several years ago for her book *Handling Digital Brains* (MIT Press, 2011). There, Morana analyzed various ethnomethodological phenomena related to brain research with fMRI, adopting an original synthesis of conversation analysis and her mentor Umberto Eco's semiotics. We very much appreciate their taking up this important task on our behalf.

Sarah Hitzler and Kevin Whitehead were elected our new council members. We sincerely welcome them also and look forward to everything they will bring to our section. We also appreciate the work contributed by Daniela Boehringer, Helena Webb, and Chase Wesley Raymond, who will be departing the council.

... Cont'd on next page!

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## A message from Aug and Ken (Cont'd)

One of the continuing challenges that the new officers will face is to keep raising us out of the doldrums of below-minimum membership. The latest ASA accounting of members (May 2018) shows that we have increased slightly, to 130 members. This is not sufficient to obtain a secure place as an ASA section. We need everyone to think of new ways for each member to bring in one, or two, additional members. Ideas?!

We have an especially stimulating program this year, both in the Regular sessions and in the EMCA sessions, which are packed into Monday and Tuesday. Our most august scholars remain active in our section, bringing vitality to the discussions and offering guidance to the next generation. Naturally, there are important issues that are contested, but we should not be afraid to benefit from a frank and respectful discussion of them. Let us not forget that dialectics is the fountainhead of truth. Everyone should participate, even in those sessions that are not one's primary interest; for example, EM practitioners should attend CA sessions, and CA practitioners should attend EM sessions. The alternative is to become like two ships who pass each other in the night.

At the end of March, we lost another leading scholar who had been hugely influential in EM and CA communities all over the world. Chuck Goodwin's involvement with ASA began as early as the 1970s, and no one would deny that his shadow has been present with us at most of our sessions. It is our great pleasure to announce that this year's Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship was awarded to Chuck. We learned so many things from his books and papers, as well as his generous spirit. He also taught us another lesson by the manner in which he died. Several weeks before his death, he explained to people who were gathering at his house (quoted), "I envision when my life finally fades out, it's fading out in a scene like this, that's filled with the life of others. With all sorts of generations. And that seems to be the world that we inhabit. Rather than a private world of pain and death, but a world that is sustained through the richness of other people and their care, concern, intellectual stimulation. And it's the most wonderful thing." He made open the process of his death so that he could continue to share with others, as was his habit. In doing so, he demonstrated what he wrote about in his books and papers: human beings and the world they inhabit are essentially coupled, and the world gains its meaning through our participation in the world as sensuous beings. Analyzing that world only abstractly limits what we can know. Chuck did not abandon that world filled with the life of others even when he was facing his death. We appreciate and celebrate all of his contributions to our community.

**Ken Liberman** & **Aug Nishizaka**  
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# 2017-2018 ASA Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section Award Recipients

## **EMCA Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship**

Charles Goodwin, University of California, Los Angeles

### **EMCA Best Paper Award**

1. Kevin A. Whitehead,

“Everyday Antiracism in Action: Preference Organization in Responses to Racism,”  
*Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 34(4), 374-389

2. Edward Reynolds,

“Description of membership and enacting membership: Seeing-a-lift, being a team,”  
*Journal of Pragmatics*, 118, 99-119

### **EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award**

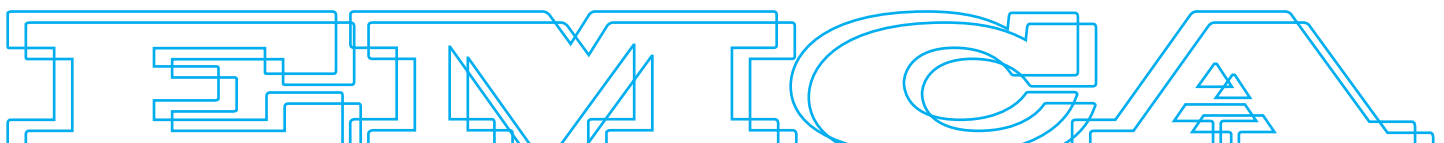
Amanda McArthur,

“Getting Pain on the Table in Primary Care Physical Exams,”  
*Social Science & Medicine*,  
200, 190-198

### **Melvin Pollner (1940-2007) Prize in Ethnomethodology**

Darin Weinberg,

*Contemporary Social Constructionism: Key Themes.*  
Temple University Press



## 2018 Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship

The committee has determined that the Garfinkel-Sacks Lifetime Achievement Award of the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analytic Section of the American Sociological Association be awarded to Charles Goodwin, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Communication, University of California, Los Angeles.



Professor Charles Goodwin is among the world's leading scholars in the field of Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis. His research has been truly ground-breaking. He widened the analytic lens beyond talk to incorporate gaze, gesture, embodied behavior, the distribution of bodies in space, and the material environment into the analysis of human conduct in interaction. This decisive move has been highly generative and consequential. He opened a window into the importance of mutual monitoring and the simultaneous coordina-

-tion of speakers and recipients in the management of action. He exposed the complex competences implicated in a wide range of collaborative work settings and professions. In particular, his work on 'professional vision' broke radical new ground in asking how people learned to 'see' the world in the distinctive fashion associated with membership competence in a group and to exchange this skill with each other. His extension of this work to the analysis of police evidence in the Rodney King trial set a benchmark for the application of EMCA to issues of public concern. He remains a pioneer in the field of video analysis, developing deep technical and professional competencies which he has freely shared others. And his cumulative body of work has cross-disciplinary theoretical ramifications, which are still being developed, for our understanding of language and communication, distributed cognition and intersubjectivity, and human sociality.

Charles Goodwin's studies have been extremely influential and inspiring to scholars world-wide, and he has generously offered his expertise and passion to anyone seriously interested. As one Italian scholar has written in support of Goodwin's nomination for this award: "Chuck is a volcano of ideas, insights and perceptions, an un-exhausted, always lucid, intellectual machine. All those who study multimodal interaction see Chuck as the maestro who first started this work, and the one who has continued this work with finesse, originality and intellectual depth."

- Anita Pomerantz (Chair), Steven Clayman, and Robert Dingwall

## 2018 EMCA Best Paper Award 2018

For this year's EMCA Best Paper Award we received journal articles and book chapters from various disciplines, including sociology, linguistics, education, and computer science. The competing submissions reflect the recognition of ethnomethodology and conversation in these disciplines and cover a wide range of topics. They all meet a very high standard, but the two winning entries clearly stand out:

Kevin A. Whitehead's paper "[Everyday Antiracism in Action: Preference Organization in Responses to Racism](#)" was published in the [Journal of Language and Social Psychology \(Vol.34, 4, 374-389\)](#) and presents a systematic analysis of interactions at radio call-in shows in South Africa in which the caller and radio host negotiate the status of racial actions as 'potentially racist' or 'unequivocally racist'. It provides an excellent explanation and a clear example of how conversation analytic research systematically reveals the interactional production of a social phenomenon, in this case a racist action.

The other winner is Edward Reynolds' article "[Description of membership and enacting membership: Seeing-a-lift, being a team](#)", published in the [Journal of Pragmatics \(Vol.118, 99-119\)](#). The paper closely relates to Garfinkel's concern with the intelligibility of action through which social order is ongoingly produced and rendered "observable-and-reportable". The setting that Reynolds has chosen for his study is the sport of powerlifting, a particular kind of weightlifting. He examines video-recordings of powerlifting sessions and reveals how participants achieve moments of being team members by virtue of orienting to and observing each other's activities. We are delighted to be able to present the EMCA Best Paper Award 2018 to these two outstanding papers and congratulate Kevin A. Whitehead and Edward Reynolds on their achievements.

-Dirk vom Lehn (Chair), Andrea Ploder, and Saul Albert



## 2018 EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award

Out of a strong field of EM and CA contributions this year the committee felt that the quality, clarity and sociological fit of [Amanda McArthur's "Getting pain on the table in primary care physical exams"](#) merited this year's Top Student Paper Award. This piece highlights the way in which patients manage pain cries as a form of unsolicited and potentially diagnostic information in GP consultations, managing competing sets of rights and responsibilities in the primary care setting.

-Edward Reynolds (Chair), Luke Kang Kwong, and Philippe Sormani

## Melvin Pollner (1940-2007) Prize in Ethnomethodology

[Darin Weinberg's \*Contemporary Social Constructionism: Key Themes\*](#) has been selected as the winner of this year's Mel Pollner Prize. This is the second Pollner Prize for Darin, who previously won for *Of Others Inside*. Darin, whose dissertation was chaired by Pollner at UCLA, has produced a manuscript that reflects Mel's enduring theoretical influence, particularly in the areas of ethnomethodology, social constructionism, philosophy, and sociology. Chapter Five, in particular, is an homage to Pollner's legacy and work. The committee found the book to be both lucid and consonant with Pollner's focus on the connections between knowledge and practical action. It provides a definitive account of the philosophical roots of social constructionism that will benefit theorists and methodologists alike. Congratulations Darin!

-Waverly Duck (Chair), Robert Emerson, and Shiro Kashimura

## 2018 ASA Meeting EMCA Schedule

Monday, August 13th

### **Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Talk, Dance, Adjacency and Non-Adjacency**

8:30am-10:10am  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, 407

“Misaligned Adjacency Pairs: Failures by Interdisciplinary Scientific Teams to Achieve Mutually Intelligible Meanings”

-*Donald Everhart*, University of California, San Diego  
*Anne Warfield Rawls*, Bentley University

Organizer:  
Douglas Maynard,  
University of Wisconsin

“The First Step is Always the Hardest: Rhythm and Methods of Mutual Coordination Between Novice Dancers”

-*Saul Albert*, Tufts University  
*Dirk Vom Lehn*, King’s College London

Presider:  
Albert J. Meehan,  
Oakland University

“You Know as a With-Me Token: A Resource for Intersubjectivity and Affiliation”

-*Steven E. Clayman*, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Chase Wesley Raymond*, University of Colorado, Boulder

Monday, August 13th

### **Racial Degradation Ceremonies in Everyday Life**

8:30am-10:10am  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 100, 109AB

“Blue and White Supremacy: Situating the Symbolism of the Blue Lives Matter Movement”

-*Jamie G. Longazel*, City University of New York - John Jay College

Organizer and  
Presider:  
Nicole Gonzalez Van  
Cleve,  
University of Delaware

“The Everyday Degradation of Black Mothers”

-*Dorothy E. Roberts*, University of Pennsylvania

“Racial Degradation under the Law: A Comparative Look at Police, Courts, and Jails”

-*Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve*  
University of Delaware

“Reenacting Historical Memory: The Historical Links to Modern Racial Degradation”

-*Geoff Ward*, University of California, Irvine

## 2018 ASA Meeting EMCA Schedule

Monday, August 13th

10:30am-12:10pm  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, 407

Organizer:  
Douglas Maynard,  
University of Wisconsin

Presider:  
Steven E. Clayman,  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

### **Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: CA, Multimodality, and Lab Study**

“Imitation in Children’s Locomotor Play”

-Elliott Hoey, University of Basel  
David DeLiema, University of California, Berkeley  
Rachel Chen, University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco State University  
Virginia Flood, University of California, Berkeley

“Multimodal Activity Management in Institutional Talk”

-Joshua Raclaw, West Chester University  
Rich A. Sandoval, Metropolitan State University of Denver

“Procedures and their Problems in Routine Laboratory Work”

-Donald Everhart, University of California, San Diego

Monday, August 13th

2:30pm-4:10pm  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, 407

Organizer:  
Douglas Maynard,  
University of Wisconsin

Presider:  
Jason Turowetz,  
University of Siegen

### **Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Studies in Medical Settings**

“Multimodal and Multisensorial Identification of Human Anatomy: A Case of Medical Reasoning in Surgical Operations”

-Satomi Kuroshima, Tamagawa University

“Reports of ‘Noncompliance:’ Managing Issues of Accountability and Self-presentation in the Primary Care Consultation”

-Clara Ann Blomgren Bergen, University of California, Los Angeles

“Making Treatment Recommendations: Physicians’ Conversational Actions, Medical Authority, and Antibiotic Prescribing”

-Nan Wang, University of California, Los Angeles

“Mobilizing the Elasticity of Certainty for Treatment Acceptance”

-Alexandra Tate, University of California, Los Angeles

Monday, August 13th

4:30pm-5:30pm  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, Franklin Hall 13

### **Cooley-Mead Award Ceremony and Address**

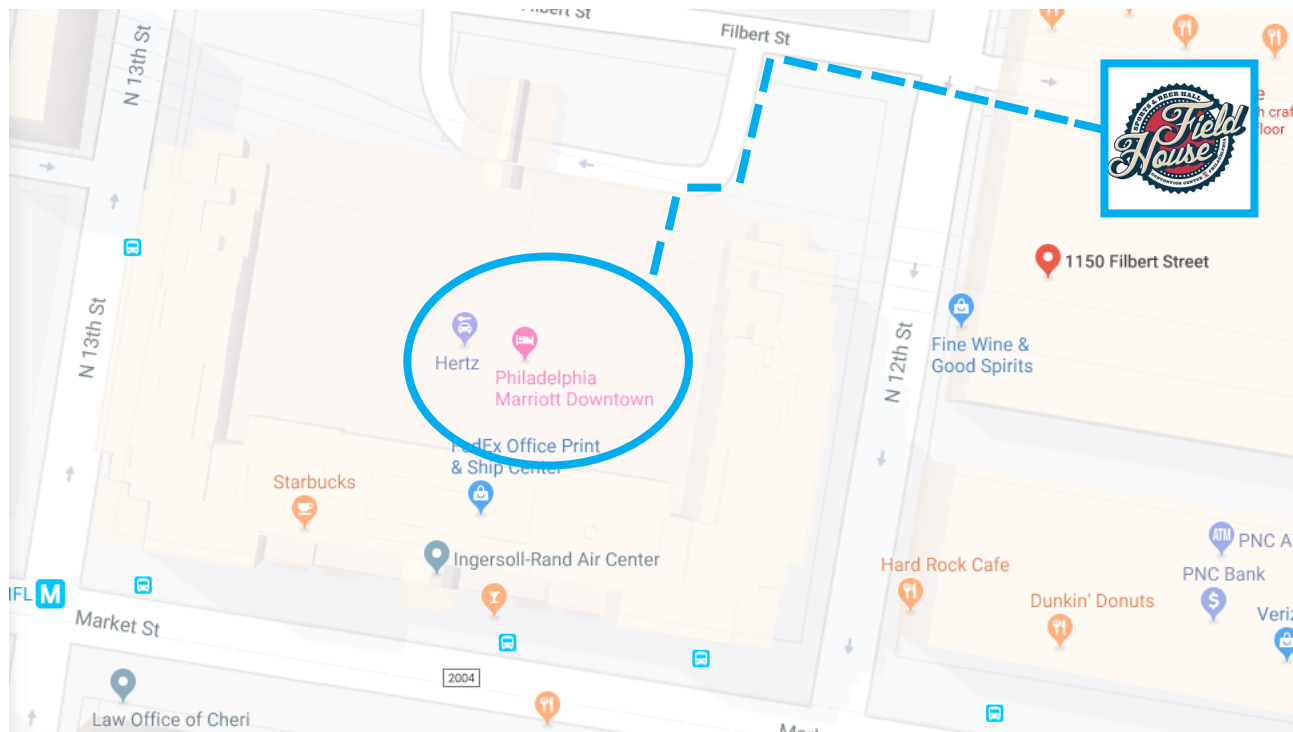
“Why Autism Needs Social Psychology, and Why Social Psychology Needs Autism”

-Douglas W. Maynard, University of Wisconsin

# Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Reception

Monday, August 13th  
7:30pm - 9:30pm  
1150 Filbert Street  
at the **Field House**

(in the Philadelphia Convention  
Center, across from Reading  
Terminal Market)



## 2018 ASA Meeting EMCA Schedule

Tuesday, August 14th

8:30am-9:30am  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, Franklin Hall 5

Organizer and Presider:  
Kenneth B. Liberman,  
University of Oregon

### Current Trends in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

“Formalization and its Discontents”

-*Michael Lynch*, Cornell University

“On the Fraught Relations between Professional and Laic Analyses in  
Contemporary CA”

-*Douglas Macbeth*, Ohio State University

Tuesday, August 14th

9:30am-10:10am  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, Franklin Hall 5

## Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Business Meeting

Tuesday, August 14th

10:30am-12:10pm  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, Franklin Hall 8

Organizer:  
Waverly Duck,  
University of Pittsburgh

### Tacit Unconscious Racism in Everyday Life

“The Hazards of Being Seen: Discomfort in Ordinary Racial Interaction”

-*Kenneth Liberman*, University of Oregon

“Enforcing the White Interaction Order in a White/Black Police/Citizen  
Encounter: Fractured Reflections of Identity and Legitimacy”

-*Anne Warfield Rawls*, Bentley University

“The Hazards of Not Being Seen: How Inequalities of Race and Disability that  
Render Students Invisible Make Communication Impossible”

-*Derek C. Coates*, University of California, Berkeley

“The Customer is Always Right Except When they are Black”

-*Gary C. David*, Bentley University

Tuesday, August 14th

10:30am-12:10pm  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, Franklin Hall 5

### Research in Conversation Analysis

**Due to withdrawals, this panel is  
cancelled.**

## 2018 ASA Meeting EMCA Schedule

Tuesday, August 14th

12:30pm-2:10pm  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Level 4, Franklin Hall 8

Organizer:  
Kenneth B. Liberman,  
University of Oregon

### Research in Ethnomethodology

“The Beauty of EM Research: Towards Respecifying the Unique Adequacy Requirement of Methods”

-*Lucia Ruggerone*, Robert Gordon University  
*K. Neil Jenkins*, Newcastle University

“Radical Video”

-*Patrick Watson*, Wilfrid Laurier University

“The Next 50 Years: Three Challenges for Ethnomethodology”

-*Karin D. Knorr Cetina*, University of Chicago  
*Niklas Woermann*, University of Southern Denmark

“Deadly Police Shootings: An Ethnomethodological and Conversation Analytic Approach to the Killing of Samuel Dubose”

-*Albert J. Meehan*, Oakland University

~ **Fin** ~



## 2018 Cooley-Mead Award

Doug Maynard has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 Cooley-Mead Award from the Social Psychology section of the ASA. At this year's meetings in Philadelphia, he will be giving the Cooley-Mead address, entitled "Why Autism Needs Social Psychology, and Why Social Psychology Needs Autism." The presentation stems from a project funded by the STS section of the National Science Foundation.

The title of the NSF project (#1257065) is, "A Sociology of Testing, Diagnosis, and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)." Since the early 1990s, there has been an upsurge in ASD diagnosis, and while there have been sociological and epidemiological studies that account for the increased prevalence, little attention has been paid to the concrete ways in which clinicians examine a child, consult with one another about their findings, determine a diagnosis, and present that diagnosis to parents and other caretakers, who have played an increasingly significant role in the process.



So far, Doug and students have published a number of papers from this project – and a monograph co-authored with former student, Jason Turowetz is in progress – reflecting two main avenues of research.

A first avenue involves the analysis of ASD testing, an analysis that maps children's capacities for first-order, "concrete competence" as a part of the interactional substrate of testing. Concrete competence reflects the set of embodied skills that make it possible for a child to participate in testing at all (independently of how a child may score). Analysis shows how such competence can both enable and disable the display of second-order, abstract competence or what Margaret Donaldson calls the type of "disembedded knowledge" that testing privileges. Concrete competence could ordinarily be seen as a child's own property or characteristic set of behaviors, but ultimately it is a co-construction in that, rather than reflecting a child's solitary skill set, it is influenced by both the design of testing instruments and inadvertent cueing from a clinician who administers the instrument.

A second avenue on this project concerns how clinicians report the results of their testing via clinical narratology – the use of different kinds of stories about children's performances in the clinic as well as at school and home. This avenue responds to Ian Hacking's (2004) call for a Goffmanian mode of analysis to complement, and balance, the emphasis on large-scale transformations and discourses ala Michel Foucault. Through their narrative productions, clinicians provide evidence to support a diagnostic position. These productions include distinct story types that differentially contribute to ruling in or ruling out an ASD diagnosis for a given child. Story types include those about concrete "instantiations," those that propose "tendencies," and others that are "typifications" or generalizations regarding a specific child.

## 2018 Cooley-Mead Award

Tendency stories and typifications predominate, to the neglect of instantiation (particularized) stores that could enable a more individualized approach to testing and processes of inclusion for a given child.

As an ethnomethodological-conversation analytic project, the data include audio and video recordings along with field notes from diagnostic clinics. Because of previous studies, Doug has data that spans not only the current era (data collection for the project took place between 2012-2015), but also previous decades of autism diagnosis. Accordingly, an expansion of the second project avenue addresses the sociology of diagnosis by considering how clinical practices have responded to historically changing regimes of definition.

### New Directions in Ethnomethodology March 28th & 29th, 2018

*-Patrick Watson*

Ethnomethodology has recently entered into a state of transition. The first generation of EM/CA researchers have passed on, and the second and third generations are reaching or have reached retirement. At this juncture, it is not surprising that several pertinent issues facing EM's future direction have arisen. On two rainy days at the University of Liverpool's London campus, a group of emerging and newly established researchers in EM met to discuss just these topics.

The two-day event was split into four thematic sessions: Hybrid Studies; Video data in EM/Ethnographic research; Unique Adequacy Requirement(s), and; Techniques for presenting video-ethnographic research. One remarkable aspect of the workshop was that all the sessions, regardless of thematic area, had a great deal to say to each other: researchers working on hybrid studies were concerned about what could be concluded from videos from field sites; those presenting on video analysis probed the practical limitations of reaching a unique adequacy requirement through recorded re-presentations; and a general theme of 'uniquely adequate to what/for what?' was central to many of the talks and subsequent discussions. The final session, on working with visual/video data, also afforded reflection on some of these key themes of discussion, while at the same time taking an applied approach to new practices for presenting visual and interactional data that direct the audience to the phenomena in question, afford new analytic insights into them, and/or allow for greater anonymity among research participants.



## New Directions in Ethnomethodology

This workshop, organized by Michael Mair, is the first in an annual series that will bring together emerging and newly established scholars in ethnomethodology, with an eye to planning networks, studentships, research projects/grant applications, and curricular/course development. The objective of the series is to assess the state of play in EM/CA research, as

well as in sociology and cognate disciplines more generally, and to preserve EM's place in the social sciences. As the scholarly world changes around us – driven by metrics, publicly engaged scholarship, 'the entrepreneurial professor', and rapid social, political, and technological change – this series of workshops will serve to provide a more solid footing for ethnomethodology and ethnomethodologists. As stated in the workshop's overview, 2017 marked a year of reflection on 50-years of Studies and 25-years of Lectures, and the intention was to



turn 2018 into the year ethnomethodology considered "what's next?". While it would be impossible to answer this question in two days, significant gains were made in bringing together and cementing links between the next generation of EM researchers, preserving EM's radical past, and plotting a course for a productive future.

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### Presenters and Titles:

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*Michael Mair* – Introduction and Welcome

*Jonas Ivarrson* – Some Kind of Member:  
Uniquely Adequate for all Practical Purposes

*Yaël Kreplak* – Learning How to Look at an  
Artwork

*Neil Jenkins & Lucia Ruggerone* – The Beauty of EM Research: Towards Respecifying the  
Unique Adequacy Requirements of Methods

*Paul Smith* – Can the Study of Literacy Contribute to the Progress of Conceptual Debates in  
Ethnomethodology?



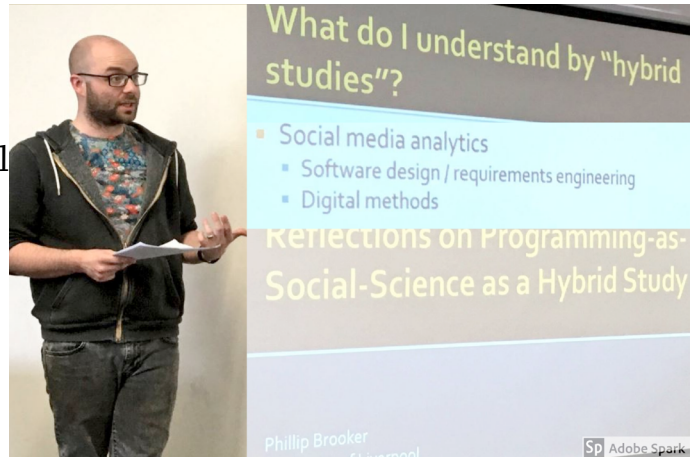
## New Directions in Ethnomethodology

Presenters and Titles (continued):

*Alex Dennis & Phil Hutchinson* – Making Unique Adequacy Investigable

*Oskar Lindwall* – Reassessing Video: Instructional Lessons

*Chris Elsey & Martina Kolanoski (with Michael Mair)* – Analysing Single Incidents of Military Activities: Can (and indeed should) We Compare Cases?



*Patrick G. Watson* – Videontology: Seeing and Knowing

*Philippe Sormani* – Play It Again, Aja: Of Momentous Moves, Particle Politics, and Video Analysis

*Nozomi Ikeya* – Ethnomethodological Hybrid Studies as Collaborative Engagement with Members

*Stuart Reeves* – How UX Practitioners Produce 'Findings' in Usability Testing

*Larissa Schindler* – Engaging Ethnomethodologically with Air Passengers

*Phillip Brooker* – Reflections on Programming-as-Social-Science as a Hybrid Study



*Phil Hutchinson & Alex Dennis* – Respecifying Stigma as a Situated Doing

*Saul Albert, Patrick G.T. Healey, Claude Heath, Matthew Tobias Harris and Sophie Skach* – Re/drawing Interactions: and EM/CA Video Tools Development Workshop