

# EMCA NEWSLETTER

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

## Message From the Chairs

### Jay Meehan and Tanya Stivers

Happy Summer, EMCA members! We are nearing the end of our first year as section co-chairs and taking stock of it all. First, we want to thank you for the confidence you placed in us and in the Section Council to keep our section a viable and important part of the ASA. We learned a lot this past year but could not have accomplished anything without the amazing support we received from you when we asked for assistance and the ideas you provided (e.g., our three webinars) to support our members' needs and interests. As always, if you have any ideas or concerns about the section, please feel free to reach out to us. We are looking forward to our second year!

Like all of you, we were pleased to see this long virtual academic year come to a close and to be poised to resume face-to-face university life soon. But before we get there, we will have one more virtual ASA meeting, August 6-10. Please join us for the EMCA panels created from the many excellent paper submissions received this year. They are listed later in the newsletter. Our thanks to Anne Rawls for coordinating this year's program with us and procuring some additional sessions for the section from the 2021 ASA program committee. Please note that we will be hosting a virtual social gathering on Saturday, August 7 at 4pm (EDT). We will make a link available to members as we get closer to the meetings. Finally, don't miss our Section Business meeting on Monday, August 9 4.15-4.45 (EDT) where we will present and tout this year's award winners and discuss plans for next year.

Last year, our section was again under review for probationary status because we are among the smallest of the ASA sections. We argued that we may be small, but we are mighty and vital as evidenced by robust section participation in the annual meetings, an international footprint, good section governance and, as you will read in this issue, sponsorship of events that add value to section membership. The good news is that the ASA did not put us on probation. However, one of the easiest ways for us to succeed long-term (and avoid repeated scrutiny) is to increase our size. If each faculty section member gifts one student a section membership, or gifts a section membership to another ASA member, we would be able to hit the 200 member mark with minimal effort. We saw these strategies work this past year: in 2021, section membership has slightly increased from 113 to 123 members and we are very grateful to those members who have already taken up this gift challenge. But we are confident we can do better.

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## CURRENT BOARD

**Secretary/  
Treasurer**

Alex Dennis

## **Council Members**

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Dirk vom Lehn

Anssi Peräkylä

Gary C. David

Derek Coates

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Please visit our  
website for more  
information:

[HTTP://ASA-  
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Facebook page!](#)

Please see information below about how to gift memberships and note that the gift membership deadline is July 31st. Let's make it happen for our 2021 count!

We offer our gratitude for the service of our Treasurer, Patrick Watson, our Council members, Kevin Whitehead, Dirk vom Lehn, Anssi Peräkylä, Sarah Hitzler, David Gibson, and Gary David. A special thank you to Patrick, Kevin, and Sarah who are just completing their terms. Your hard work has been appreciated! And a welcome to Alex Dennis, our new treasurer, as well as Derek Coates and Christian Greiffenhagen, our new council members. Thanks as well goes to everyone who agreed to run for section offices this year. Participation in section governance is one of the factors ASA uses in their assessment of a section's vitality. Every member's willingness to assist the section by standing for office (win or lose), participating on committees and attending section business meetings at the ASA is truly appreciated.

Congratulations to our award winners this year! Please read more about Doug, Angela, Janet, Reihaneh and Kristella below. We particularly owe thanks to the committees who selected this year's recipients:

- Our best student paper award committee was chaired by David Gibson. Thank you to committee members Esther Gonzales and Jason Turowetz.
- Our best book award committee was chaired by Kevin Whitehead. Thank you to committee members Satomi Kurashima and Alex Dennis.
- Our distinguished scholar committee was chaired by Virginia Gill. Thank you to committee members Steve Clayman and Anssi Peräkylä.

Finally, we want to thank our outstanding communications team Kristella Montiegel and Luis-Manuel Olguin. Whether organizing the newsletters, coordinating the webinars, or promoting section events we are fortunate to have their skills, patience and good humor. We appreciate the time they take from their graduate studies to serve the section and make us all look good!

Join us for the ASA! Looking forward to 2022!

-Tanya and Jay

## ASA Gift Membership

**Gift Memberships: Deadline Is July 31, 2021**

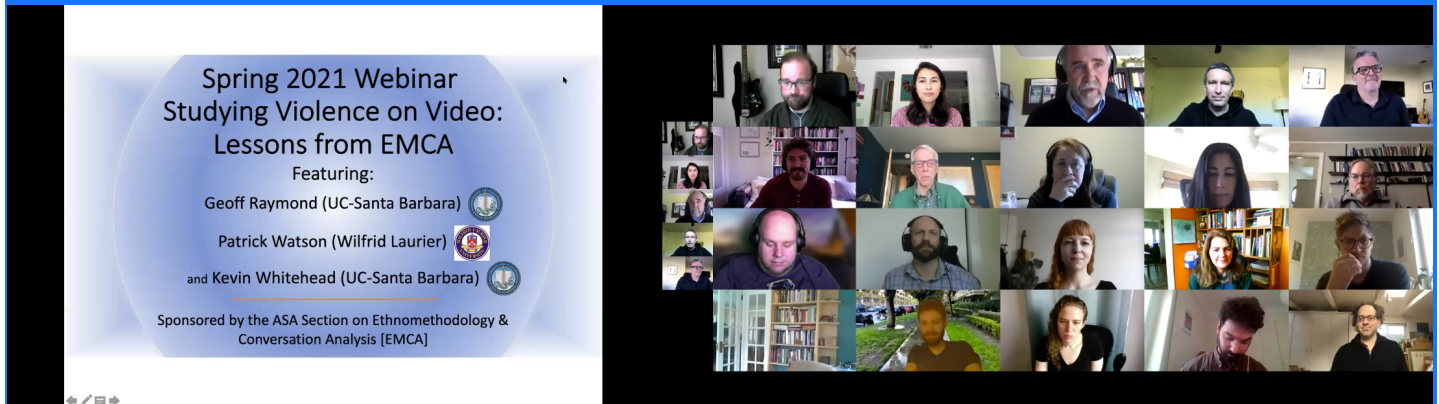
You can gift an ASA membership to students, or a Section membership to existing ASA members of any membership type. However, the sooner you give a gift membership, the sooner the recipient can begin to enjoy the benefits of membership and learn more about the Section.

**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 for an ASA student membership. 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. Gift memberships are not refundable. Gift memberships are not tax deductible.

**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 membership. Gifts are not tax deductible.

## Recap of our Fall Webinar

Thank you to all those who attended our previous webinar, "Studying Violence on Video: Lessons from EMCA."



Thank you to all those who attended our last webinar, "Studying Violence from Video: Lessons from EMCA." The event, which took place on March 30, brought together over 40 scholars of social interaction who have an active research agenda studying violence using video materials from EMCA perspectives. The webinar started with a presentation by Kevin Whitehead (University of California - Santa Barbara), who offered an example of a case of "violence on video" to raise important ethical and methodological challenges. Then, Geoffrey Raymond (University of California - Santa Barbara) discussed his approach to study the interactional precursors of police violence, using police-civilian encounters data. Lastly, Patrick Watson (Wilfrid Laurier University) discussed how videos of police-involved killings are used to adjudicate reasonableness in trial proceedings. The webinar concluded with a stimulating Q&A session in which participants (who joined us from all over the world!) highlighted the ethical, methodological, and epistemological dimensions of professional uses of video recordings of violence as evidence.

## Join us for our next webinar!

Please join us for our next event, an interview-style webinar with Waverly Duck, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh. The event will take place over Zoom on **July 22, 2021 (Thursday) at 9:00 AM (PST)**. All are welcome to attend.

Space is limited. To register for the event, please sign up at: <https://forms.gle/L1SPbfq5CKmvBUqw8>



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 EMCA SECTION AWARD WINNERS!

The EMCA section is excited to announce the winners for the following awards. These will be given at the 2021 ASA Annual meeting.

## Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship

Douglas Maynard, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## EMCA Distinguished Book Award

Angela Garcia, Professor, Professor of Natural and Applied Sciences, Bentley University

Honorable mention: Janet Vertesi, Professor of Sociology, Princeton University

## EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award

Reihaneh Afshari Saleh, Doctoral Student in Language and Communication, University of York

Honorable mention: Kristella Montiegel, Doctoral Student in Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles

## Meet some of our award winners!

### Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Angela Garcia (Bentley University )

I'm a professor in the Department of Natural and Applied Sciences at Bentley University (Waltham, Massachusetts), and in previous years worked at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. I did my graduate studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and studied with Candace West and Don Zimmerman. Most of my research has been conversation analytic studies of facilitative mediation. My book *How Mediation Works: Resolving Conflict through Talk* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), both revisits and extends the research I have been engaged in over the years. The book is a CA study of over forty videotaped mediation sessions. It strives to provide a detailed understanding of how mediators do their work, how the interaction in mediation sessions is organized, and how that interactional organization can contribute to the strengths and weaknesses of this type of conflict resolution procedure. The strengths include helping people in conflict listen to each other and work to create agreements, and the weaknesses include the risk of failures of neutrality and threats to disputant autonomy.

In addition to studies of mediation, in recent years I have conducted research on emergency telephone calls, air traffic communications, and talk in political contexts. I also do ethnographic research on the sociology of leisure (e.g., sports, jig saw puzzles), and other topics such as pedestrianism and animal rescue organizations. I'm currently working on a paper on the speeches of U. S. Senators and another paper on concession speeches by Presidential and Congressional candidates. I'm also working on the second edition of my textbook in CA, *An Introduction to Interaction: Understanding Talk in Formal and Informal Settings* (Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2013). My next project will be a study of Transformative Mediation, an approach to mediation that engages the disputants in direct conversation with each other with mediators playing a supportive rather than a facilitative role.



I am currently a final-year doctoral student in the interdisciplinary programme 'Language and Communication' at the University of York. With a background in Linguistics, I joined the Department of Language and Linguistic Science at York in 2016 to do a Master's in 'Phonetics and Phonology' with a focus on the phonetic realization of emotional expressions. Influenced by Professor Richard Ogden and Dr. Kobin Kendrick, I soon developed a keen zest to investigate emotional expressions in social interaction. I was extensively trained in CA and phonetic analysis of talk in interaction, and in 2017, I was awarded the departmental scholarship to continue my academic journey to the PhD level. My PhD project, supervised by Professor Ogden and Dr. Kendrick, is a multimodal analysis of 'persistence' sequences in Persian everyday face-to-face interactions.



I am exploring a variety of methods by which interactants persist in their course of action despite their coparticipants' resistance against it. My paper, "Mock Aggression: Navigating Affiliation and Disaffiliation in Interaction", is based on a section of one chapter of my PhD thesis where I investigate a previously unexplored phenomenon in CA: 'mock aggression' – embodiments which, in one way or another, appear aggressive (punching, pinching, slapping, etc.) but are not designed to be, or oriented to as, serious physical threats. I show that mock aggression, when performed between intimate interactants, negatively sanctions social transgressions and at the same time provides systematic opportunities for participants to engage in more affiliative interaction.

I understand myself as an interactional linguist who applies CA methods to study her research interests: phonetics/prosody of talk in interaction, gestures and embodiment, multimodality, and emotional expressions in interaction. I am affiliated with University of York's Centre of Advanced Studies in Language and Communication – where I have the chance to share my passion of detailed analysis of social interaction with insightful colleagues who have been constant source of inspiration.

## ASA Conference: EMCA Session and Panels

### **Regular Session. Achieving Participation, Inclusion and Taken-for-Grantedness in Social Settings**

Sat, August 7, 12:45 to 2:10pm EDT (9:45 to 11:10am PDT), VAM, Room 23

Session Submission Type: Paper Session (85 min)

Much of the research done by ethnomethodology and conversation analysis involves the study of how participation and inclusion are managed. However, research typically focuses on a particular type of setting or social issue, using what is known about how participation, inclusion and the ordinary character of social "facts" are accomplished to shed light on that setting. The papers in this session use detailed research in particular settings to address the more basic question of how participation, inclusion and the ordinary taken-for-granted are accomplished.

Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls, Bentley University

Presider: Clemens Eisenmann, University of Siegen

### Individual Presentations

- Configuring participation in hybrid auctions - Sylvaine Tuncer, King's College, London; Christian C Heath, King's College, Business School; Paul Luff, King's College
- Invoking shared knowledge in proposal sequences for collaborative activities - Satomi Kuroshima, Tamagawa University
- Going Shopping or Consulting in Medical Visits: A Study of Caregiver's Resistance to Treatment Recommendations - Nan Wang, Hunan University; Yuetong Liu, Hunan University
- Negative stance towards treatment in psychosocial assessments: The role of personalised recommendations in promoting acceptance - Clara Ann Blomgren Bergen, University of California Los Angeles

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- The social construction of facts as an interactional resource in the U.S.A. Presidential Debates - Menno H. Reijven, University of Amsterdam

### **Regular Session. Disability and Collaborative Aspects of Talk, Perception and Interaction**

Sat, August 7, 2:30 to 3:55pm EDT (11:30am to 12:55pm PDT), VAM, Room 23

Session Submission Type: Paper Session (85 min)

The papers in this Session consider "Disability" in the context of social interaction and the different mastery of interactional skills required in interaction that Ableist assumptions overlook. Four of the papers consider interactional "troubles" in talk and interaction involving the deaf/blind every day life and the classroom, while two consider the "rules" of interaction that people must master in interaction (which are often impossible for the deaf/blind) and one considers these expectations in the context of a "robodog".

Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls, Bentley University

Presider: Jason Turowetz, University of Siegen

#### Individual Presentations

- Distributed perception with a guide dog and a robodog - Brian Due, University of Copenhagen
- When Sighted People Forget - Derek C. Coates, University of California-Berkeley
- Rule talk: Instructing proper play with impersonal deontic statements - Giovanni Rossi, University of California-Los Angeles; Jörg Zinken, Leibniz-Institute for the German Language; Julia Kaiser, Leibniz-Institute for the German Language; Matylda Weidner, Kazimierz Wielki University; Lorenza Mondada, University of Basel; Marja-Leena Sorjonen, University of Helsinki
- Peer Interaction in an Oral Classroom for Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing Children - Kristella Montiegel, UCLA
- "Routinizing" in parent-teacher conference interaction: How teachers enact expertise, attenuate advice, and preempt parent resistance - Danielle Pillet-Shore, University of New Hampshire

### **Regular Session. Systemic Racism and Inequality as Embedded in Social Interaction**

Sun, August 8, 12:45 to 2:10pm EDT (9:45 to 11:10am PDT), VAM, Room 23

Session Submission Type: Paper Session (85 min)

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis developed around the analysis of troubles in social interaction that are produced by the need to manage the boundaries of socially defined categories - like Gender and Race - and the difficulties and indignities this imposes on those who find themselves assigned to categories with negative social value. The papers in this session examine the ways in which people either align with, manage, and/or resist this categorization in actual interaction, and how this category work has become embedded in the expectations of ordinary everyday social interaction such that participants can be, and often are, doing category work that recreates Race and Inequality without being aware of it.

Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls, Bentley University

Presider: Kevin A. Whitehead, UC Santa Barbara

#### Individual Presentations

- Racial incompetence as a comedic device, and a tacit method of anti-racist education, Lillian Cheeks & Kevin Whitehead, UC Santa Barbara
- Ambiguities in Action Ascription, Tanya Stivers, Giovanni Rossi, and Andrew Chalfoun, UCLA
- Doing justifying discrimination through categorization work: an examination of minority group members' practices, Tianhao Zhang, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- Resisting categorization in interaction: membership categorization analysis of sitcom humor, Ryo Okazawa, Meiji Gakuin University

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- Secondary ethnographic analysis: a neglected resource, Alex Dennis, University of Sheffield

### **Regular Session. Reframing Policing: Contested Motives and Legal Fictions**

Sun, August 8, 4:15 to 5:40pm EDT (1:15 to 2:40pm PDT), VAM, Room 21

Session Submission Type: Paper Session (85 min)

The papers in this session examine commonly accepted legal fictions, taking a deep dive into the interactional work of police officer, witness and victim in creating the reality members of society typically accept without question. Assumptions are subjected to analysis on the basis of audio, video and interactional data that reveal the processes of their social construction. The result is a significant reframing of issues involving policing, evidence, persuasion and “Big Data”.

Session Organizer: Anne Warfield Rawls, Bentley University

Presider: Albert J. Meehan, Oakland University

#### Individual Presentations

- “Barking Up the Right Tree” The Ethnomethods of Big Data Policing, Andre Buscarolli, UC Santa Barbara
- Gestalt Contexture and Contested Motives: Understanding Video Evidence in the Murder Trial of Office Michael Slager, Patrick G Watson, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Loopy expertise: The role of expert witnesses in police excessive force trials, Michael Lynch, Cornell University
- Reasonable belief: legal fictions and the reframing of officers and victim/sustpects, Carmen Nave, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Investigating the thinking mechanisms of European Witch-Hunters: Notes from an Impure Ethnomethodological Detective, Gordon C. Chang, Western Illinois University

### **Meeting. Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Council Meeting**

Mon, August 9, 10:00 to 10:45am EDT (7:00 to 7:45am PDT), VAM, Room 21

Session Submission Type: Council Meeting

### **Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis.**

New Directions in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

Mon, August 9, 11:00am to 12:25pm EDT (8:00 to 9:25am PDT), VAM, Room 21

Session Submission Type: Paper Session (85 min)

In this session we will hear a range of ethnomethodological and conversation analytic papers on topics ranging from health to corruption. Common across the papers is a reliance on social interaction data that is naturally occurring and is commonly recorded.

Session Organizer: Tanya Stivers, UCLA

Presider: Albert J. Meehan, Oakland University

#### Individual Presentations

- Action formation of requests in German: interactional and pragmatic factors affecting the choice of linguistic formats, Alexandra Gubina & Arnulf Depperman, Leibniz-Institute for the German Language
- “Do not think a member is a person”: On analytical individualization, Jakub Mlynar, Charles University
- Quid pro quo in calls from a corruption scandal, Luis Manuel Olguin, UCLA
- Talking about things: how patients use ‘thing’ to preface medical failures, Caroline Kim Tietbohl, University of Colorado Denver, Clara Ann Bergen, UCLA
- Managing and using the problem of multiple categories in relation to action formation and ascription, Kevin A. Whitehead & Geoffrey Raymond, UC Santa Barbara

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## **Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis.**

Current Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

Mon, August 9, 4:45 to 5:40pm EDT (1:45 to 2:40pm PDT), VAM, Room 69

Session Submission Type: Paper Session (55 min)

In this session we will hear from scholars doing work in conversation analysis and ethnomethodology drawing on observation and recordings of naturally occurring social interaction.

Section Organizer: Albert J. Meehan, Oakland University

Presider: Tanya Stivers, UCLA

### Individual Presentations

- Negotiating the mainstream: mitigated rejections of far-right policy proposals in bundestag debates, J. Sterphone, UC Santa Barbara
- Error correction, conditional autonomy, and bodies in motion: The case of rope access training, Andrew Labonte, Jon Hindmarsh, & Dirk vom Lehn, King's College London
- Facilitating sequences: the case of grandparents in video calls between migrant parents and their children, Yumei Gan, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Christian Greiffenhagen, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Kobin Kendrick, University of York