

EMCA NEWSLETTER

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

Message From the Chairs

Jay Meehan and Tanya Stivers



We are excited by the prospect of seeing our section members in person in LA in August! There will be a good number of EMCA events for you to enjoy beyond the LA weather! We have a total of 5 panels of presentations between our organized section sessions and Giovanni Rossi's organized regular sessions. We also have our business meeting where we will celebrate our section's awardees for the Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship, the Melvin Poller Prize in Ethnomethodology, the EMCA Distinguished Paper Award, and the EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award. Finally, we will have an off-site reception for the section where we can enjoy face-to-face social time! All in all, it promises to be a rewarding ASA.

We are still facing a need for more members, particularly due to the new calendar year. As in the past, we ask all faculty members to please think of EMCA when you ponder your random acts of kindness for 2022 and consider gifting a student section membership or even ASA and section membership. If all faculty members did this, our membership would grow considerably! Relatedly, we want to remind you that the 2022 ASA elections will open on Tuesday, April 26, and close on Friday, May 27, at 5 p.m. Eastern. Ballots will be sent out via email from Sociological.ballot@intelliscaninc.net. Please add this email address to the permitted senders list on your spam filter to ensure timely delivery of your ballot. This year, in addition to electing new Section Co-Chairs and two Section Council positions, there is an important by-law change to the term of office for co-chairs that members will be asked to approve. Specifically, the amendment changes the term of future section co-chairs from a two to a three-year term after which the co-chairs remain on the council for a further one year as Past Chair or Co-Chairs. As is currently the case, after serving their term, co-chairs would remain on Council ex-officio for one year rather than the current two years.

At present, co-chairs serve two years while other council members serve three-year terms. As current co-chairs, and in consultation with past co-chairs, we felt that a three-year term would provide better leadership continuity and allow co-chairs more time to develop and implement section initiatives. We have found [continued...]

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the first year in office is ostensibly a learning curve year and in year two, the focus is on leadership transition. Discussions with council members and section membership indicate considerable support for this change. We are hopeful that the general membership will agree and support this by-law change.

Looking ahead, we are excited to let you know that after consulting with the EMCA Council at our mid-year meeting, we have proposed two thematic panels to the ASA for 2023 in Philadelphia. Our fingers are crossed that if we secure either of these, it will give us an even stronger presence at ASA.

Finally, as always, we look forward to ideas that you as members might have to provide important services to our community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you.

-Jay & Tanya

RECAP OF WINTER WEBINAR

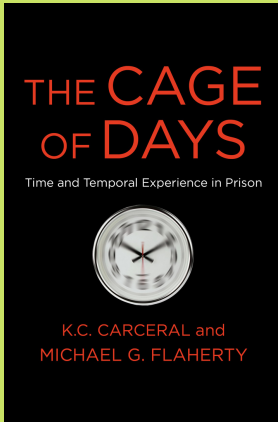
A Conversation with Anita Pomerantz



Earlier this winter, we had the pleasure of having Professor Anita Pomerantz join our EMCA section webinar series for an informal conversation about her research and career in academia. Anita is Professor Emerita in the Department of Communication at the State University of New York at Albany and one of the pioneers of Conversation Analysis. She has written extensively on a broad range of topics, such as agreeing and disagreeing, seeking and providing information, and negotiating responsibility for blameworthy and praiseworthy deeds across contexts.

In the past few months, Anita has been invited to speak at various venues and asked to reflect on her academic career and lifetime work and achievements. Our webinar was targeted to early career researchers in the section, particularly focusing on teaching, research, and career advice. As we have done in the prior events, the conversation was organized around a series of topics and questions we asked section members to send Luis Manuel and Kristella in advance. In the first part of the event, Anita recounted her graduate school and early teaching experience, studying under Harvey Sacks at Irvine and teaching in Sociology at UCLA. The second and third parts of our conversation concentrated on advice on how to gain access into settings for research, writing and assessing a good CA paper, and teaching introductory CA classes. The last part of the session was devoted to discussing possible future directions of the field and raising some methodological challenges associated with this. It was an enriching experience for which we once again thank Anita and everyone who attended the webinar.

RECENT BOOK PUBLICATIONS



The Cage of Days. Time and Temporal Experience in Prison.
By K.C. Carceral and Michael G. Flaherty. Columbia University Press, 2022.

Prisons operate with the clockwork logic of our criminal justice system: we punish people by making them “serve” time. The Cage of Days combines the perspectives of K. C. Carceral, a formerly incarcerated convict criminologist, and Michael G. Flaherty, a sociologist who studies temporal experience. Drawing from Carceral’s field notes, his interviews with fellow inmates, and convict memoirs, this book reveals what time does to prisoners and what prisoners do to time.

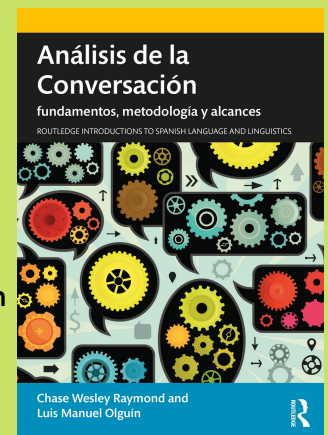
Carceral and Flaherty consider the connection between the subjective dimensions of time and the existential circumstances of imprisonment. Convicts find that their experience of time has become deeply distorted by the rhythm and routines of prison and by how authorities ensure that an inmate’s time is under their control. They become obsessed with the passage of time and preoccupied with regaining temporal autonomy, creating elaborate strategies for modifying their perception of time. To escape the feeling that their lives lack forward momentum, prisoners devise distinctive ways to mark the passage of time, but these tactics can backfire by intensifying their awareness of temporality. Providing rich and nuanced analysis grounded in the distinctive voices of diverse prisoners, The Cage of Days examines how prisons regulate time and how prisoners resist the temporal regime.

*Columbia University Press is offering a 20% discount with promotional code: CUP20

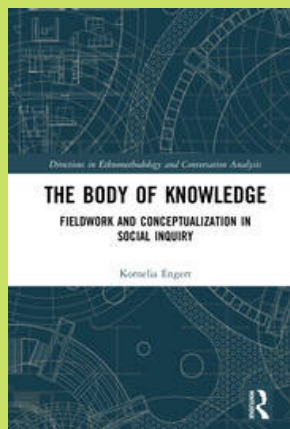
Análisis de la Conversación: Fundamentos, metodología y alcances. By Chase W. Raymond and Luis Manuel Olgún. Routledge Introductions to Spanish Language and Linguistics. Routledge, 2022.

Chase W. Raymond and Luis Manuel Olgún’s *Análisis de la Conversación* offers the first introductory textbook to CA written in Spanish. Organized in nine chapters, the book introduces the reader to the field’s history, methods, and main findings, surveying over 50 years of CA research in core organizational domains of ordinary conversation and institutional talk across a range of settings and sociocultural contexts. Each chapter includes a variety of examples from authentic Spanish conversation, whose audio recordings readers can consult directly online. Additionally, each chapter is accompanied by a set of questions and activities geared toward checking and reinforcing understanding of the material, as well as a list of additional readings for those interested in more specific topics. Glossaries of technical vocabulary—both Spanish-English and English-Spanish—are included as appendices, along with a summary of the CA transcription system.

Written entirely in Spanish, the book presents a thorough and engaging introduction to CA and its applications. It is ideal for students, instructors, and researchers in Hispanic Studies, (Spanish) Linguistics, Sociology, and Communication Studies.



RECENT BOOK PUBLICATIONS



The Body of Knowledge. Fieldwork and Conceptualization in Social Inquiry. By Kornelia Engert. Directions in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis. Routledge, 2022.

From Routledge's website: "This book presents a vivid and close-up view of social science researchers engaged in fieldwork, in discussions with colleagues, and in writing. Adopting an ethnographic approach inspired by ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, the author pursues a praxeological analysis of social inquiry in situ. By conceiving of analytical practices such as observation, shop talk, and conceptualization in experiential terms, the seen but unnoticed structures of knowledge work are exposed and made available for empirical analysis.

In a departure from ethnographic studies of research that focus on the physical sciences, the author uses the example of sociological research to shed new light on the role of self and mind for epistemic cultures, on the elusive materiality of conceptual objects, and on researchers' experiential ways of seizing, reviewing, and accrediting knowledge.

A rich and pervasive study of elementary sites in the research process, *The Body of Knowledge* will appeal to scholars of sociology, anthropology, and the humanities with interests in the epistemic practice of their own discipline, as well as those working in fields such as the social study of science, ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, and the sociology of interaction."

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Analyzing Race/IsM in Interaction

A workshop for emerging scholars organized by the EMCA for Racial Justice Project

Virtual Workshop, July 6-8, 2022. Applications deadline: on April 2. More info on their website emca4rj.conversationanalysis.org

Digital Meeting for Conversation Analysis (DMCA)

DMCA is a global conference organized with support from the International Society for Conversation Analysis (ISCA)

Virtual Meeting, October 31-November 4, 2022. Deadline for abstract and panel submissions: April 30. More info on their website dmca.conversationanalysis.org

The 6th International Conference on Conversation Analysis 2023

ICCA 2023 brings together academics, researchers and service providers to showcase the latest research and best practice in conversation analysis.

The University of Queensland, Brisbane (Meanjin), Australia, June 26th - July 2, 2023. Call for abstracts & posters opens Monday, March 28 2022. More info on their website: icca2023.org/

Student Spotlight: Lucas Z. Wiscons (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Lucas is a doctoral student at UW-Madison, interested in joining the long-running ethnomethodological project of bringing an understanding and appreciation of members' work to discussions about race, law, and policing in the United States. As an undergraduate, he studied sociology and community studies. His training engendered a deep curiosity about social organization and cohesion and an appreciation for those engaged in practical endeavors to intervene in and alleviate injustice and suffering.

Lucas became involved with non-profit legal service providers for immigrants, asylees, and refugees through an undergraduate participant-observation field study.

He subsequently took a job as the operations manager of a law firm central to the organization and provision of pro bono legal immigration services in Southern California. In this position, he learned about the ever-shifting immigration policies and programs of the U.S. and met people whose families and lives were affected by them. His commitment to social justice deepened as he observed the dispassionate ways that federal immigration policy could imperil individuals, families, and communities.

He decided to pursue a graduate degree in sociology to explore how systems, like immigration, came to be and how they are managed, maintained, and might be altered. At UW-Madison, he had the good fortune of meeting Professor Douglas Maynard, who introduced him to EMCA. Through this training, Lucas came to appreciate the situation as the locus of order and now employs EMCA to study race, law, and policing in the US. His dissertation work uses body-cam footage, police reports, and charging documents to investigate the practices by which officials organize renderings of encounters with the police into materials and configurations suitable for legal handling. This work is still at an early stage, but Lucas hopes to begin publishing on it soon.



Faculty Spotlight: Sylvaine Tuncer (King's College)

Dr. Tuncer joined King's College (London, UK) in 2021 as a Lecturer in Work, Interaction and Technology. Coming across ethnomethodology and conversation analysis during her final year as a Sociology student in Paris was a fortunate coincidence. Shortly after, she undertook a PhD with Christian Licoppe, who trained her into video analysis and CA more broadly. Before her current position, she went through a long period of fixed-term research contracts, which was challenging, but also an invaluable professional (and personal) experience. Mixing with different work practices and disciplinary environments – interactional linguistics, HCI, human-robot interaction – she made her way to a position where she can now focus on her initial research interests bringing together this experience.



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For example, she's currently looking at robotic surgery, as well as live hybrid auction sales (blending copresent and remote participation), in projects that combine technologies in use, work and organisation, and of course interactions and video analysis. She met many researchers on this journey, some of whom have become regular collaborators.

Dr. Tuncer tries to undertake and promote more ethnography alongside video-based research, be it in highly expert or more ordinary settings, because time spent on the field is invaluable to problematise research, to develop a strong analytic focus, and to argue for the relevance of the research. She also uses methodological considerations around ethnography to initiate and feed in a conversation with social scientists of different sensitivities. She sees the latter as critically important because she would like to see EMCA research contribute more in some fields where it is still largely underrepresented.

ASA Gift Memberships

Deadline Is July 31, 2022. You can gift an ASA membership to students, or a Section membership to existing ASA members of any membership type. 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.

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.

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

We encourage section members to send us information about upcoming events or recent publications to share in the newsletter!

You can contact Luis Manuel and Kristella at emca.asa@gmail.com. If you would like to promote recent books and similar works, please send a brief description of the work along with a high-resolution image of the book cover or other media.