

# EMCA NEWSLETTER

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

## Winter and Spring Events in Review

Since our last newsletter, the EMCA section put on two great events. On February 10, Pentii Haddington (University of Oulu) led us in a data session entitled, "**How do delays in signal transfer in immersive virtual reality impact the organisation of social interaction?**" Using data from video recordings of interactions between two participants in an immersive virtual reality game, twenty-nine members of the EMCA global community joined together. Looking at recordings from the perspectives of each of the two participants, participants discussed how the transmission might influence the turn-taking organization and action ascription. A lively discussion focused on the constraints and affordances experienced by interactants in virtual reality settings.

On May 5, Steven Clayman (University of California, Los Angeles) led fifty-five participants in a webinar entitled, "**Question Design as a Window into Social Interactions.**" Emphasizing how variations in the question design as an analytic resource for variations in institutional norms, the webinar provided a whirlwind tour of a diverse group of interactional settings, ranging from courtrooms to medical visits to journalistic interviews. Professor Clayman synthesized a broad swath of research, offering an accessible introduction along with valuable insights for participants of all skill levels.

We hold webinars three times a year to create more spaces beyond the ASA annual meeting for section members to connect and discuss the nuts and bolts of interaction research. Keep an lookout in the fall for news of our next event. Although all members are welcome to attend, the webinars specifically target student members and graduate and professional students. Please don't hesitate to contact our newsletter editors, André and Andrew, who also coordinate the webinars, if you have any ideas or feedback.



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# RECENT BOOK PUBLICATIONS



**Revolution and Witchcraft: The Code of Ideology in Unsettled Times.** By Gordon C. Chang. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.

Ideas influence people. In particular, extremely well-developed sets of ideas shape individuals, groups, and societies in far-reaching ways. Through three intense episodes of manipulation and mayhem—Europe’s witch hunts, the Mao Zedong-era “revolutions,” and the early campaign of the U.S. War on Terror—this book unpacks the complex reflexive relations between powerful idea systems and people as intelligent, meaning-making cultural members. Idea systems often embed intricate structural mechanics that enable social actors to process information and generate ideas. Yet, the operation of the idea systems depends on people’s methods and strategies of activation. Each case shows that those who know the “code” of the idea systems—those who understand the structural configuration of idea systems’ mechanics—exercise disproportionate agency in conditioning social outcomes. Each of these cases also shows that these processes of activation can go awry—that even the most masterful manipulators of idea programs may lose control of the outcomes of programmatic manipulation. *Revolution and Witchcraft* demonstrates to social scientists and humanities scholars the value of close-up examinations of cognition and ideas down to the very minutiae, as the drivers of important social phenomena can often be found in the smallest of details.

This book is Open Access. Visit the book website [codeofideology.com](http://codeofideology.com) to access the full text (in PDF or EBUB formats) and additional materials.

## Recap: Interactional Foundations of Policing Symposium, UC Santa Barbara

On April 6-7, the UCSB's Center for Research on Interaction and Social Problems held its inaugural symposium, "Interactional Foundations of Policing." The event brought together renowned and emergent scholars from different methodological backgrounds, including Peter Manning, Douglas Maynard, David Thacher, Albert J. Meehan, Geoffrey Raymond, Michael Sierra Arévalo, Christina Aushana, and Lucas Wiscons. The presentations discussed how interactional approaches help us understand the situational dynamics of officer-civilian encounters, advancing our understanding of how law enforcement agents acquire, maintain, and use their professional vision. Moreover, following the tradition of ethnomethodology in addressing questions regarding trust and inequality, the presentations focused on issues about race in policing. As questions about police legitimacy become more prevalent, the symposium was an important step in demonstrating the value of EMCA in opening the "black box of policing" and addressing long-standing social problems.

# UPCOMING EVENT OF INTEREST

The 11th annual meeting of  
The Language and Social Interaction Working Group (LANSI)  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
New York City  
October 13-14 (Fri & Sat), 2023

## INVITED SPEAKERS

Tanya Stivers, UCLA  
Steven Talmy, The University of British Columbia

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LANSI brings together scholars and students working on naturally-occurring data within the broad area of language and social interaction. In keeping with the LANSI spirit of diversity and dialog, we welcome abstracts from colleagues working on a variety of topics using discourse analytic approaches that include but are not limited to conversation analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, and critical discourse analysis. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and should include descriptions of the following aspects of the study: (1) research question; (2) data and method; (3) key finding with a short illustrative data segment. Alternatively, you may now submit a link (e.g., Google or Dropbox) to a single, 2-3 min, audio-narrated PPT slide that displays one data extract and addresses (1)-(3) above. Please also include a 50-word summary regardless of your mode of submission.

Abstracts will be blind-reviewed on the basis of clarity, specificity, originality, and the inclusion of the required components. Papers will be presented within a 10-minute slot with an additional 10 minutes for discussion.

Deadline for electronic submission is June 15, 2023. Notification of acceptance or otherwise will be sent via email by early July, 2023. For additional information and to submit an abstract, please visit: [www.tc.edu/lansi](http://www.tc.edu/lansi).

Questions can be sent to: [lansi@tc.edu](mailto:lansi@tc.edu)

Conference Co-chairs: Hansun Zhang Waring, Allie King, Lauren Carpenter, Kelly Frantz

## **Student Spotlight: Keith Cox (University of California, Los Angeles)**

Keith is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at UCLA, where he uses CA to study communication in medical and everyday contexts. His EMCA training began in 2012 when, as an undergraduate at Illinois State University, he enrolled in Virginia Gill's seminar on social interaction. After graduating, he returned to ISU to continue his training as a master's student. His thesis examined a surgeon's use of a figurative comparison ("cancer is like teenagers") in preoperative consultations with early-stage breast cancer patients.



After receiving his master's degree, Keith taught two courses – Medical Sociology and Sociological Inquiry – as a lecturer at ISU for one year before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a PhD at UCLA. His second master's thesis focused on contingency planning or "safety netting" in primary care medical visits. He subsequently expanded this work by looking at how contingencies and plans in their service can be used to display varying degrees of commitment to arrangements in everyday life.

More recently, Keith has been working on his dissertation which focuses on a range of issues related to uncertainty and valence in a corpus of pediatric neurology visits for overnight video-electroencephalogram testing. He is particularly interested in how physicians and parents manage social dilemmas that arise in complex medical contexts.

## **Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Anne Rawls (Bentley University, University of Seigen)**

Since 2015 I have worked (with support from Medien der Kooperation-Uni Siegen) with a group of scholars to make Harold Garfinkel's Archive available for research, organizing a digital archive and writing about Garfinkel and Sacks. Garfinkel collected a remarkable set of materials, including almost every manuscript and letter he wrote/received (from 1939), recordings (from the mid-1950's), teaching materials, audio of phone-calls/discussions, and video of experiments and class-exercises. In this treasure trove are Garfinkel's copies of Sacks' lectures, video recordings and transcriptions of Sacks' early talks (with letters to Garfinkel), audio of Parsons and Goffman, and working sessions between Garfinkel and Sacks, including several in August 1967 for a presentation at ASA titled "On Setting in Conversation" (published in 1970 as "On Formal Structures of Practical Actions").

Garfinkel and I published three books: Ethnomethodology's Program (2002), Seeing Sociologically (2006) and Toward a Sociological Theory of Information (2008). I published his 1947 "The Red as a Social Object" (2012), and my talk from his 2011 memorial "Harold Garfinkel's Focus on Racism, Inequality, and Social Justice: The Early Years 1939-1952", appears in The Ethnomethodology Program, edited by Maynard and Heritage (2022).

## **Faculty Spotlight Continued: Dr. Anne Rawls**

Through the Siegen project we published two more books: Garfinkel's History of Gulfport Field 1942, Part II, The Aircraft Mechanics School, with Mike Lynch (2019); and Garfinkel's 1962 Parsons Primer, with Jason Turowetz (2019), along with Garfinkel's 1961 essay "Notes on Language Games" (2019). Elliott Hoey and I published "Harvey Sacks: Connections, References, Differences" (2022); with Jason Turowetz "Talcott Parsons and Harold Garfinkel: The Development of Culture as Interaction" (2022); with Clemens Eisenmann "The Continuity of Garfinkel's Approach" (2023).

In keeping with a long-term objective to ground EMCA in a reinterpretation of social theory, and its relationship to epistemology and justice, I published "Epistemology and Practice: Durkheim's Elementary Forms of Religious Life (2004); "The Wartime Narrative in US Sociology 1940-1947: Stigmatizing Qualitative Sociology in the Name of 'Science'" (2018); La Division du Travail Revisited: Vers une Théorie Sociologique de la Justice (2019); with Jason Turowetz "Discovering Culture' in Interaction" (2019); "The Structure of Social Facts: Self, Objects, and Action as Products of Reciprocity and Cooperation in Constitutive Practices" (2021); with Jason Turowetz "Garfinkel's Politics: Establishing the Social Fact Status of Race, Gender, and other Social Identities and the Implications for Social Justice" (2022); "Situating Goffman's 'Interaction Orders' in Durkheim's Social Fact Lineage" (2022); with Waverly Duck "Black and Jewish: Double Consciousness Inspired a Qualitative Interactional Approach that Centers Race, Marginality, and Justice" (2023); "The Goffman-Garfinkel Correspondence: Planning 'On Passing'" in *Etnografia e ricerca qualitativa* (2023); with Mike Lynch "Ethnography in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis" (2023).

My book with Waverly Duck, Tacit Racism (2020) follows up early interests in Race and justice that motivated my initial engagement with Garfinkel. We also published "Racisme tacite et fantôme de la blancheur" in *Mauss Review* (2022); and addressed international implications in "Tacit Racism is Institutionalized in Interaction in the US: What about Elsewhere?" (2021).

I have also done research and published on information science and computing, currently completing "'Machine Down': Making sense of human-computer interaction-Garfinkel's Early Research on ELIZA in 1967-1968 and its Contemporary Relevance" with Clemens Eisenmann, Jakub Mlynář, and Jason Turowetz.