

EM
CA

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Newsletter

*of the American Sociological Association's Section on
Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis*

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Message from the Co-Chairs

Greetings Section on EMCA members! We are excited to begin the second year of our term as Co-Chairs in the wake of another successful ASA Annual Meeting for our Section. As always, we were heartened by the strong signs of a healthy intellectual community that were evident in Chicago, which included attendance in the 35-40 range for all our four paper sessions, an excellent set of 18 presentations accompanied by engaging Q&A periods, a business meeting with an inspiring set of award presentations, and a section reception replete with stimulating conversations. Some great pictures from these events can be found on pp. 4-8 of this newsletter!

Following this year's Annual Meeting we welcomed two new members of our Section Council, Jakub Mlynar and Kristella Montiegel, and a new Secretary/Treasurer, J Sterphone. Thank you to all who stepped forward to run for these elected positions, and special thanks to our outgoing Council members, Kaoru Hayano and Philippe Sormani for their valuable work on behalf of the Section during the past three years.

As we look forward to the 2026 Annual Meeting in New York City, we are pleased to note that the ASA's new method for determining session allocations has resulted in our Section having two more session slots (six in total, including the Business Meeting) than we have typically had in recent years. This affords us opportunities to program more and/or longer presentation slots in which to showcase cutting-edge research in our fields. The call for submissions and a link to the submission portal are included on p. 9 below – we will look forward to receiving your submissions before the 9:00pm (EST) on February 25, 2026 deadline!

We are also pleased to announce the calls for nominations for the 2025 Section Awards, which are also included below on pp. 10-11. We are deeply grateful to the Award Committee Chairs and members who have generously volunteered their time to serve on these important committees.

We are excited to introduce the first edition of a new feature in this issue of our newsletter (pp. 12-13 below), in the form of “How I came to EMCA” stories. If you would like to share your story in a future newsletter, please get in touch with us! Also note the details of our first webinar for this year on “Teaching EMCA” on p. 14 – we hope many of you will attend to learn from our brilliant panelists and to share your own teaching tips and experiences!

We would greatly appreciate your continued support in helping to grow our membership, ensuring that ASA recognizes and sustains the strength and relevance of our section. We currently have 126 members, which is an appreciable (almost 15%) increase from the 111 members we had around this time last year. Please help us to keep this momentum going by renewing your membership for 2026 and sharing your ideas for further expanding our section’s reach and significance within the EMCA scholarly community. If you know an ASA member who is not yet part of Section 43, or a graduate student planning to attend and present at ASA, please consider “gifting” them a section membership (\$10 for regular members, \$5 for students).

With best wishes,
Satomi & Kevin

ASA 2025 | Annual Meeting

EMCA Award Winners



Kenneth Liberman receives the Garfinkel-Sacks Award for Distinguished Scholarship.



Matthew Hollander and Jason Turowetz receive the Distinguished Book Award.



André Buscariolli, recipient of the Graduate Student Paper Award.

ASA 2025 | Annual Meeting

— Paper Sessions —



David Gibson



Sage Frock



Atsushi Nakagawa



Richard Randell & Robert Braun

ASA 2025 | Annual Meeting

— Paper Sessions —



Nadja Tadic



Gordon Chang



Tanya Stivers



From left to right: Douglas Maynard, Jason Turowetz, Nadja Tadic, Sage Frock, Keith Cox, and Dirk Von Lehn

ASA 2025 | Annual Meeting

Paper Sessions



Douglas Maynard



Ryo Okazawa



Aug Nishizaka



Brianna McKenna

ASA 2025 | Annual Meeting

Section Reception



Call for 2026 ASA Annual Meeting Submissions

The Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis is requesting paper submissions for the 2026 ASA Annual Meeting in New York City.



The ASA online paper submission portal is open, and closes February 25, 2026 at 9:00pm EST. Please visit [this link](#) for more information and submit a paper or extended abstract for our Section sessions so we can program as many papers as possible!

Contact Section Session organizers Satomi Kuroshima (skuroshi@lab.tamagawa.ac.jp) and Kevin Whitehead (kwhitehead@ucsb.edu) if you have questions or need help.

Call For 2026 Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Awards

The Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis is requesting nominations for the following awards to be given at the 2026 ASA Annual Meeting in New York City.

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 the following:

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 John Heritage (heritage@soc.ucla.edu) by March 1, 2026.

EMCA Distinguished Paper Award

This award recognizes an outstanding publication contributing to ethnomethodology and/or conversation analysis. The 2026 award will be given to a paper. Eligible papers for the 2026 award must have a copyright date between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025, 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 paper; and 2) a PDF (preferable) or hard copy of the paper, or a link to a website where it can be downloaded in full at no charge.

Please send nominations to Committee Chair, Tanya Stivers (stivers@soc.ucla.edu) by March 1, 2026.

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 2025 award must have been published or written between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025, inclusively. Authors can submit their own papers, 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 paper; and 2) a PDF (preferable) or hard copy of the paper, or a link to a website where it can be downloaded in full at no charge.

Please send nominations to Committee Chair, Caroline Tietbohl (caroline.tietbohl@cuanschultz.edu) by March 1, 2026.

Melvin Pollner Memorial Prize

The Melvin Pollner Memorial Prize honors the intellectual spirit and memory of Melvin Pollner. The \$1000 award recognizes an article, chapter, or book with a copyright date between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025, 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. Authors can submit their own work, 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, chapter or book; and 2) a PDF or hard copy of the article, chapter or book, or a link to a website where it can be downloaded in full at no charge.

Please send nominations to Committee Chair, Dirk Vom Lehn (dirk.vom_lehn@kcl.ac.uk) by March 1, 2026.

How I Came to EMCA

by Shriram Venkatraman



I came to EMCA somewhat sideways, through ethnographic fieldwork on social media and later on the digital economy in India (from 2013 onwards). My notes kept returning to the same puzzle, not what platforms do, but how people accomplish economic life through them, turn by turn, weaving together screens and face-to-face talk.

In a tailoring shop, customers sent their measurements via WhatsApp. The tailor's son typed "Done, Ma'am," then silently tilted the phone toward his father, a small display of accountability. In local shops, UPI payments unfolded as tidy sequences from request to scan to beep to thanks. When the beep failed, repair set in: "Network problem?" "Try again." "Screenshot?" If the trouble persisted, the

paper ledger resurfaced, and credit was renegotiated. Family WhatsApp groups treated blue ticks as attendance; an aunt's "Good morning" image was later ratified at tea, "You saw it, no?" Among delivery workers, missed calls functioned as summons; quick callbacks coordinated timing while leaving visible traces for customers and platforms.

These mundane digital practices revealed a systematic pattern. That's when I discovered EMCA. Reading the classic Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson (1974) gave me an analytic language for what I was witnessing: adjacency pairs, sequence organization, repair. Once I began transcribing chats with CA conventions, a new analytic framework emerged, typing indicators as pre-sequences, forwarded labels as epistemic markers, and emojis as second-pair parts completing transactions.

EMCA let me stitch the screen and street. It showed how ordinary economic life with credit, trust, and reputation is accomplished through publicly inspectable practices that travel between phones and face-to-face encounters. EMCA offered tools to track how a payment app's beep becomes socially consequential, how a thumbs-up counts as a contractual agreement, and how screenshots serve as receipts in the absence of paper. That's how I found my way, by following the micro-order of India's digital economy as people make it work, together.

Shriram Venkatraman is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, University of Southern Denmark.

How I Came to EMCA

by David R. Gibson

My path into EM/CA was unconventional. My graduate school adviser was the great mathematical sociologist Harrison White, but he was just exiting his theory-writing phase and had decided to study language. I actually resisted that at first, not being as captivated by code-switching as he was, but I had an interest in Goffman and micro-interaction and saw a way to bridge that and social network analysis, which Harrison had pioneered, by studying how network structure translates into sequential talk. That's what brought me to CA.

My first publication was theoretical and very CA-inspired (if only moderately CA-informed), on conversational agency, but otherwise my early work was quantitative. It was only

when I was teaching at Harvard (my first job) that I started dabbling in CA proper, initially in an article on linearization and interruption. And it wasn't until I had moved to the University of Pennsylvania that I went all-in on CA, in my book on the deliberations of President John F. Kennedy's inner circle during the Cuban missile crisis. (John Heritage, who heard me present some early results at ASA, was very generous in providing feedback on each chapter, the whole thing produced at breakneck speed. The book won the Melvin Pollner prize in 2013.) What I admire about CA is its dedication to the study of what actually happens when people interact, in all of its particulars, and its ability to extract insights from fairly modest amounts of data, exactly because it looks for order at the very level at which people are concerned to produce it.

A hallmark of my work is a preference (or at least stomach) for complicated institutional settings, and a willingness to incur the steep startup costs. Now at the University of Notre Dame, my current research is on interaction in legal settings, particularly the U.S. Supreme Court. I also write an occasional blog on talk in the news at <https://sermointerruptus.blog/> (also available on [Substack](#)). Recent entries are on Robert F. Kennedy's Senate testimony, Ghislaine Maxwell's DOJ interview, Marco Rubio's appearance on Meet the Nation, and Joni Ernst's "we're all going to die" comment during an infamous town hall.



David R. Gibson is an Associate Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

Join Us for Our Fall 2025 Webinar:

Teaching Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

Thursday, December 11, 2025

10-11:30am PST

1-2:30pm EST

6-7:30pm GMT

Webinar Link [Here](#)

This year's ASA EMCA Fall Webinar brings together a panel of faculty members to share their experiences and insights on teaching ethnomethodology and conversation analysis. The session will be informal and conversational, featuring faculty who will discuss their experiences, challenges, and favorite approaches to introducing EMCA in the classroom. Panelists will reflect on readings, activities, and ways of engaging students across disciplines, followed by an open Q&A and discussion with attendees. The webinar offers a space to exchange ideas, practical tips, and inspiration for teaching EMCA at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Panelists

Danielle Pillet-Shore

Communication, University of New Hampshire

Giovanni Rossi

Sociology, University of California-Los Angeles

Nadja Tadic

Linguistics, Georgetown University

Jason Turowetz

Sociology, University of California-Santa Barbara

Upcoming Conferences and Events

The 8th Nordic Interdisciplinary Conference on Discourse and Interaction **(December 3-5, 2025)**

The the 8th Nordic Interdisciplinary Conference on Discourse and Interaction focuses on discourse and interaction research and invites contributions from different and diverse fields of inquiry including conversation analysis, discursive psychology, narrative analysis, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, textual studies, gesture studies, rhetoric, political discourse analysis, multimodal interaction analysis, communication studies, organization studies, and more. Trondheim, Norway, December 3rd-5th, 2025.

For more information, visit [this link](#).

International Conference of Conversation Analysis and Psychotherapy **(February 26-28, 2026)**

The International Conference of Conversation Analysis and Psychotherapy will be held February 26–28, 2026, in Cracow, Poland. This year’s theme, How Psychotherapy Works: Longitudinal Perspectives, focuses on the mechanisms and processes that underpin effective psychotherapy over time. The conference will explore how therapeutic interventions evolve, sustain, and influence client outcomes across diverse contexts. Plenary speakers include Steven Clayman, Arnulf Deppermann, Joanna Pawelczyk, John Rae, and Sanna Vehviläinen. The Organizing Committee is chaired by Bernadetta Janusz, and the Scientific Committee is chaired by Liz González.

For more information, including abstract deadlines and registration, visit the conference [website](#).

2026 International Conference on Conversation Analysis **(June 26-29, 2026)**

The 2026 International Conference on Conversation Analysis (ICCA2026) will be held at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, from June 26-29, 2026 (pre-conference workshops June 23-25, 2026). The theme of ICCA2026—Diversities, Language, Interaction—emphasizes the richness of interaction and brings a diversity-focused perspective to research on language and interaction. The conference will feature plenary talks, panels, poster sessions, pre-conference workshops, and abundant networking opportunities.

For more information, visit this [link](#).

Call for Book Proposals: ASA Rose Series in Sociology

The ASA Rose Series in Sociology, a joint publication of the Russell Sage Foundation and the American Sociological Association, invites seasoned scholars to submit proposals for books that offer fresh perspectives on enduring controversies, challenge prevailing paradigms, and provide synthetic analyses of contemporary public issues. The series focuses on critical areas of research, including the **Future of Work, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration, and Social, Political, and Economic Inequality**. The editors also welcome interdisciplinary work that intersects with these themes. Rose Series books are designed to be accessible to both academic and general audiences, ensuring broad impact and relevance across multiple fields.

Benefits of Publishing with the Rose Series:

- **Quick and Professional Review Process:** Russell Sage compensates expert reviewers to ensure timely and high-quality evaluations of proposals.
- **Seminar with Established Scholars:** Authors are invited to present drafts of their manuscripts to leading experts, strengthening the final product and generating excitement for the forthcoming book.
- **Extensive Marketing Support:** The Rose Editors, Russell Sage Foundation, and ASA collaborate on a comprehensive marketing effort to maximize the visibility and impact of Rose Series books.
- **Author Meets Critic Session at ASA Annual Meeting:** Each year, one new Rose Series book is selected for a special Author Meets Critic panel discussion at the ASA Annual Meeting.
- **Rose Book Speaker Series:** Hosted by the University at Albany Rose Editors, this lecture series offers authors a platform to present their work to diverse audiences and emphasize the policy relevance of their research.

Interested authors are encouraged to submit their proposals. **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis.** For more information, please contact us at roseseries@albany.edu or reach out to a member of our editorial team: Joanna Dreby (jdreby@albany.edu), Aaron Major (amajor@albany.edu), Katherine Trent (ktrent@albany.edu), and Steve Messner (smessner@albany.edu).

Connect with the EMCA Community

How Members Can Contribute to the Newsletter

EMCA Origin Stories

Every scholar has a story about how they first discovered ethnomethodology and conversation analysis. We're collecting short reflections (250 to 300 words) from members across career stages to highlight the diverse paths that have led people into the field. What first drew you in—a class, a mentor, a reading, or an unexpected turn in research? Share your story, your moment of discovery, or what continues to keep you inspired, and help us showcase the richness and diversity of our EMCA community.

Promoting Events & Publications

Have an upcoming event or recent publication you'd like to share with the EMCA community? We welcome submissions for the ASA EMCA Section newsletter, including announcements about conferences, panels, talks, or new books. These features highlight members' ongoing work and help keep the community connected. For book announcements, please include a short description and a high-resolution image of the cover.

To share your story, event, or publication with the EMCA community, contact Liz Munday and Marat Zheng at emca.asa@gmail.com.

Purchase a Gift ASA or EMCA Section for Students

To purchase gifts online, sign in and navigate to the Gift Memberships icon on the left-side dashboard in the Member Portal. The deadline for purchase is July 31. Section gift memberships are not available for purchase from August 1 to August 31 each year. Please note that gift memberships are nonrefundable, and the discount code expires 30 days after purchase.

For Membership Gifts:

In the form of a \$55 credit, the cost of a 2026 Student membership (which can be applied to higher cost memberships).

- Click the Purchase a Gift Membership for a Student button
- Select the Quantity of gifts you would like to purchase
- Click Add to Cart

For Section Gifts:

- Click the Purchase a Gift Section Membership button
- Select the desired Section and gift rate (Student or Nonstudent) from the Section dropdown menu and then select the quantity of gifts from the next dropdown menu.
- Click Add to Cart

After you complete the transaction, you will receive an email with the discount code and a set of instructions for you to give gift recipients. If you send a discount code to someone and they say they do not wish to redeem it, you can send the discount code to another person. The discount code is valid for the number of transactions (quantity) you purchase and can be redeemed entirely online.

If you have questions or need assistance with your gift purchase or redemption, please contact our membership staff at 202-247-9840, Ext. 1 or membership@asanet.org.

