

EM
CA

Newsletter

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

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Tamagawa University

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University of California,
Santa Barbara

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King's College London

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Liz Munday
University of California,
Santa Barbara

Marat Zheng
University of California,
Santa Barbara

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS	02
Satomi Kuroshima & Kevin Whitehead	
ASA 2026 ANNUAL MEETING	04
Program Information	
HOW I CAME TO EMCA	10
Clemens Eisenmann	
Michael G. Flaherty	
WINTER 2026 WEBINAR RECAP	12
SPRING 2026 WEBINAR	13
NEW PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS	14
UPCOMING CONFERENCES	15
ASA ROSE SERIES IN SOCIOLOGY	16
Call for Book Proposals	
CLOSING NOTES	
Connect with the EMCA Community	17
Purchase a Gift ASA or EMCA Section for Students	18



Message from the Co-Chairs

Greetings Section on EMCA members!

With summer and the ASA Annual Meeting in New York City approaching, many of you may be aware of the call for a boycott of the Annual Meeting by Sociologists for Palestine (S4P) and the associated debates surrounding the decision made by ASA leadership not to place a member-led Resolution for the ASA Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions on the 2026 ASA election ballot for a membership vote - and you may be contemplating the implications of these matters for our Section.

In participating in meetings held by ASA Section Chairs to address concerns arising from these events, we invited our Section members (via an email to the Section listserv) to share their views on these matters. Although the response rate for our Section (as for many others) was low, it reflected positions among our members ranging from strong support for the decisions made by ASA leadership to strong support for S4P's, and while we encourage members to make their own choices on participating in the Annual Meeting, joining the boycott, or some combination of these, our Section sessions at the Annual Meeting will proceed as scheduled.

We are very grateful for your ongoing engagement and support of our Section, and we welcome your further feedback on these issues. We hope you will appreciate the complexity of the challenges we have faced in navigating these uncertain times while seeking, as always, to honor our commitment as Co-Chairs to serving our Section and the EMCA scholarly community it represents.

Turning to other Section activities, we would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the panelists who contributed to the Winter webinar, K.K. Luke, Aug Nishizaka, Ryo Okazawa, and Guodong Yu. Their generosity in sharing their time and insights has been invaluable, and it has been wonderful to see the sense of community, which is a strength of our Section.

Please continue reading for another edition of our “How I Came to EMCA” feature, further news about recent and upcoming webinars, and further details on the Annual Meeting and other upcoming conferences.

With warm wishes,
Satomi & Kevin

ASA 2026|Annual Meeting, New York City

———— Program Information ————

The 2026 Annual Meeting Online Program is available. Log into the [online portal](#) with your ASA username/password and select “View the Online Program”. Registration for the meeting is open. [Preconference](#) and [Course](#) registration has been added. Below is information about EMCA Sessions at this year’s conference.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2:00 to 3:30pm

Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Interactions in Institutional Settings I

Location: TBA

Description: This session includes research based on analyses of interactions in medical settings.

Presider: Jason Turowetz, University of California, Santa Barbara

Presentations:

Between Standardization and Individualization: The Role of Interaction in Developmental Milestone Tracking During Pediatric Visits

Natalia Toledo Melendez, University of California, Los Angeles

Opening Up History-Taking: From Problem Presentation to Shared Understanding

Mikhail Belov, University of California, Los Angeles

Promoting Patient Perseverance: The Morality of Continuing Treatment During Clinical Cancer Encounters

Alexandra Tate, University of Chicago

Tanya Stivers, University of California, Los Angeles

ASA 2026|Annual Meeting, New York City

— Program Information —

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 4:00 to 5:30pm

Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Interactions in Institutional Settings II

Location: TBA

Description: This session includes research based on analyses of interactions in institutional settings, including courtrooms, mediation, and trivia.

Presider: Jakub Mlynár, HES-SO Valais-Wallis University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland

Presentations:

Automaticity's Conditions: Vigilance and Inattention during Cross-examination in the Derek Chauvin Trial

David R. Gibson, University of Notre Dame

How Reflections Work in Transformative Mediation Intake Phone Calls

Angela Cora Garcia, Bentley University

Erik Cleven, St. Anselm College

"I invented Bitcoin": Trivia as an Interactional Arena

Gonen Dori Hacoen, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Liran Peretz, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Joohee Kim, University of Massachusetts Amherst

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Section Reception at The Long Room

Location: 120 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036

As in previous years, snacks will be provided and there will be a cash bar.

ASA 2026|Annual Meeting, New York City

——— Program Information ———

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 7:00 to 7:45am

Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Council Meeting

Location: TBA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 8:00 to 9:30am

Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Advances in Ethnomethodological Theory and Practices

Location: TBA

Description: This session includes examinations of new directions in ethnomethodological theory and research practices.

Presider: J Sterphone, Wheaton College (MA)

Presentations:

Differentiating Regulative and Constitutive Normativity: Talcott Parsons, Harold Garfinkel, and the Sticky Problem of Meaning

Andrew Chalfoun, University of California, Los Angeles

Historical Ethnomethodology: Rethinking Time, Space, Member and Text

Robert Braun, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna

Richard Randell, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna

Hybrid Studies, Revisited: Work, Talk, and Technology as Thriving EM/CA Research Fields

Clemens Eisenmann, University of Konstanz

Jakub Mlynár, HES-SO Valais-Wallis University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Western Switzerland

Philippe Sormani, University of Siegen

Praxeologizing Texts? The Significance of Ethnomethodological Misreading

Jakub Mlynár, HES-SO Valais-Wallis University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Western Switzerland

Kristjan Peik, University of Helsinki

ASA 2026|Annual Meeting, New York City

——— Program Information ———

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 10:00 to 11:30am

Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Categories and Identities in Interaction I

Location: TBA

Description: This session includes ethnomethodological and conversation analytic studies of social categories and identities in interaction.

Presider: Kevin A. Whitehead, University of California, Santa Barbara

Presentations:

Accountability in the Dark: Accusations and the Development of Anonymous Idiocultures

Jonathan Drake, University of Notre Dame

Dealing with Discrepancies between Visually Inferable Membership Categories and Language Fluency in Japanese Shop-Encounter Interaction

Ryo Okazawa, Shizuoka University

Mika Ishino, Doshisha University

Talking Through Uncertainty: An Ethnomethodological Analysis of International Student Talk on Reddit

Ojonimi Segun Salihu, Western Michigan University

“The Data’s the Data”: A Method for the “Resolution” of Reality Disjunctures in Political Life

J Sterphone, Wheaton College (MA)

Jessica Robles, Loughborough University

ASA 2026|Annual Meeting, New York City

——— Program Information ———

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 12:00 to 1:00pm

Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Categories and Identities in Interaction II

Location: TBA

Description: This session includes ethnomethodological and conversation analytic studies of social categories and identities in interaction.

Presider: Kristella Montiegel, University of Colorado Boulder

Presentations:

Navigating Kinship: Sibling Reference in English, Mandarin, and Bilingual Family Interaction

Ruey-Ying Liu, National Chengchi University

Positioning Positionality: On the Interactional Foundation of Reflexive Sociology

Yuchen Yang, University of Birmingham

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1:00 to 1:30pm

Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Business Meeting

Location: TBA

ASA 2026|Annual Meeting, New York City

—— Program Information ——

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2:00 to 3:30pm

Research in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis: Studies of Ordinary Conversational Interaction

Location: TBA

Description: This session includes research based on analyses of ordinary conversational data and focusing on basic structures and practices of interaction.

Presider: Satomi Kuroshima, Tamagawa University

Presentations:

How Structural Projection Shapes Listener Behavior during Extended Answers to Questions

Amanda Morris, University of California, Los Angeles

Love at First Bite? The Occasioning and Deployment of Food Assessments at the Dinner Table

Lor Martin, University of California, Los Angeles

Sanctioning Norm Violations in Everyday Interaction: A Mixed-Methods Study

Giovanni Rossi, University of California, Los Angeles

Jörg Zinken, Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim

Stefan Blohm, Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim

Mathias Barthel, Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim

Uwe A. Küttner, Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim

Laurenz Kornfeld, Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim

Christina Mack, Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim

Jowita Rogowska, Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim

How I Came to EMCA

by Clemens Eisenmann

When I first encountered EMCA in Jörg Bergmann’s colloquium in 2008, I had already begun teaching social theory at Bielefeld University. I was immediately struck by the open and friendly atmosphere of the data sessions, the excellent company (e.g. Bochman, Esdar, Demidova, Fenn, Fürtig, Goerigk, Greschke, Hitzler, Meier zu Verl, Meyer, Müller, Oberzaucher, Ortman, Parkinson, Prochnow, Pütz, Schorch, von Wedelstaedt, Wiebke, et al.), playing beach volleyball and basketball together, and the appreciation of common sense, so participating came naturally. My first reading—the “Pulsar Paper”—took considerable effort but yielded initial insights.



Clemens Eisenmann
*University of Konstanz &
University of Siegen, Germany*

EMCA allowed me to do what I could not do before: take participants and their practices seriously. Especially when dealing with alternate ways—in my case, yoga and spirituality—this was a game changer. From the beginning, I was fascinated that EMCA does not presuppose methods or theory and focuses on the here-and-now. Its significance (also for social theory) was extraordinary to me. Later, encountering Garfinkel’s unpublished research in the archive and working with Rawls, Lynch, Turowetz, Duck, Mlynář, Sormani, and others, supported by the “Media of Cooperation” grant at Siegen and Konstanz University, my understanding deepened. I also began to see how my own experiences—such as mental illness in my family, being overweight as a teenager, or being a first-generation scholar—resonated with EMCA, offering a foundational critique, alternatives, and in-depth understanding of interactional processes such as discrimination and marginalization.

Data sessions; teaching EMCA with fantastic students; attending IEMCA, New Directions, and ASA conferences; joining the Manchester Reading Group during the pandemic; and being in touch with many generous scholars made me realize—as did listening to early EMCA conferences in Garfinkel’s archive—that it takes a “gang” to do this important work. Recently, working with Lorenza Mondada gave me further insight into what our perspectives contain. The studies reveal what EMCA is and can be, and much work remains. Currently, I am working on physical therapy and a “sociology of perception” and am curious to see how I would describe my ongoing journey for another first time in the future.

How I Came to EMCA

by Michael G. Flaherty



Michael G. Flaherty
*Eckerd College & University
of South Florida*

My journey toward membership in EMCA began when, as an undergraduate, I read Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann's book, *The Social Construction of Reality*. Its analytical insight was astonishing, and it convinced me to major in sociology. In the Preface, they acknowledged "the influence of [Alfred] Schutz's teaching and writing on our thinking" (p. vii). I was intrigued, but I did not read Schutz directly until graduate school.

During my first seminar with Norman Denzin, who would later chair my dissertation committee, we were required to read Helmut Wagner's collection of Schutz's writings, *On Phenomenology and Social Relations*. From there, I turned to Maurice Natanson's three-volume collection of Schutz's papers—especially *The Problem of Social Reality*. In these writings, he was integrating European phenomenology (Weber, Husserl, Bergson) with American pragmatism (James, Dewey, Mead). Schutz's syncretism became the theoretical framework for my dissertation on humor in everyday life.

It became evident that humor entails violations of what Harold Garfinkel called "background expectancies" (p. 37) in his book, *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. On the same page, he cited a crucial source of inspiration: "Almost alone among sociological theorists, the late Alfred Schutz ... described many of these seen but unnoticed background expectancies." In their subsequent book, *The Reality of Ethnomethodology*, Hugh Mehan and Houston Wood advanced this line of inquiry: "Realities are also dependent upon ceaseless social interactional work" (p.20). Thus, I conceptualized humor in everyday life as "reality play."

Norman Denzin's article, "Symbolic Interactionism and Ethnomethodology: A Proposed Synthesis," echoed Alfred Schutz's integrationist approach to theory construction. It also shaped my professional identity as well as my research on the social organization of time and temporal experience. That is why I am a member of EMCA and Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction.

Winter 2026 Webinar Recap

Teaching EMCA II: Instructing and Using Data in Non-English Languages

Our Winter 2026 Section webinar continued this year's series on "Teaching EMCA," joined by a panel of established teachers/scholars in the field particularly based in Asia – K. K. Luke (Nanyang Technological University, Linguistics), Aug Nishizaka (Chiba University, Sociology), Ryo Okazawa (Shizuoka University, Socio-Information Studies), and Guodong Yu (Ocean University of China, Linguistics).

Each panelist generously shared their reflections and experiences of teaching EMCA(-related) classes from their own distinct perspectives, with a special focus on using a language other than English as the language of instruction and data. Some prominent themes that emerged in panelists' individual remarks and the subsequent Q&A include the uses, benefits, and challenges of bi/multi-lingual data in classroom and research, the status of "culture" in comparative research and its representation in teaching materials, and the distinctively local course designs that incorporate EMCA elements.

The turnout was once again one of our largest to date – in fact, the largest we have witnessed in recent years, as this webinar attracted over a hundred audience members from different corners of the world. This reminds all of us that the EMCA community is not only a vibrant one but also a global, multilingual, and multicultural one. We believe it will continue to be so both in the course of producing and teaching EMCA research. And, conversations like our winter webinar have proven to be vital to this endeavor!

Have ideas for future webinars? Let us know! Planning for the 2026-27 series is underway, and we welcome suggestions about topics, formats, or participants that you'd like to see featured.

Marat & Liz

Join Us for Our Spring 2026 Webinar

Teaching Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis III: AMA with virtuosos in Europe

For the spring term, we will conclude this year's webinar series in "Teaching Ethnomethodology and Conversation" with another stellar panel. This time, we will be joined by five esteemed EMCA scholars who have ample teaching experience in European contexts. We will be holding a special 'AMA' (Ask Me Anything) session with these virtuosos from Europe; that is, the whole session will be led by the questions we will have gathered before and during the webinar. To enter your questions for a head start, please fill out [this form](#) or email them to us at emca.asa@gmail.com (along with your name and affiliation). Also, you are more than welcome to ask questions on the scene!

Tuesday | June 09, 2026

8:00am (US Pacific)

4:00pm (BST)

5:00pm (CET)

[WEBINAR LINK HERE](#)

Panelists

Saul Albert

*School of Social Sciences & Humanities,
Loughborough University*

Leelo Keevallik

*Department of Culture and Society
(IKOS), Linköping University*

Kobin H. Kendrick

*Department of Language and Linguistic
Science, University of York*

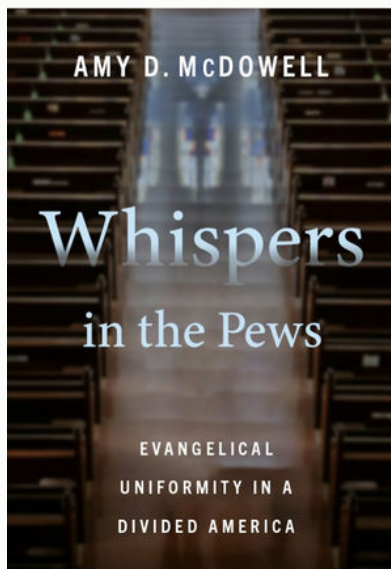
Jakub Mlynář

*Institute of Informatics, HES-SO
University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Western Switzerland (Sierre)*

Lorenza Mondada

*Department of Languages and
Literatures, University of Basel*

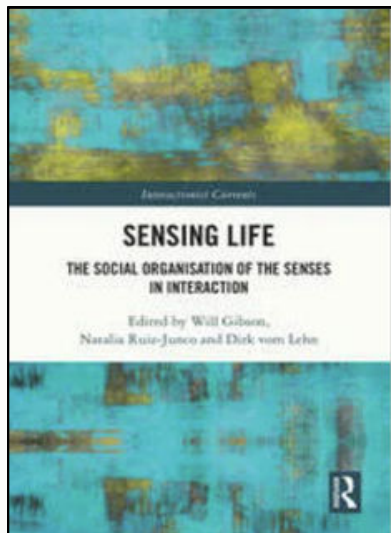
New Publications Announcements



Whispers in the Pews: Evangelical Uniformity in a Divided America

Amy D. McDowell, *University of Mississippi*

New York University Press, March 2026



Sensing Life: The Social Organisation of the Senses in Interaction

Edited by
Will Gibson, *University College London*
Natalia Ruiz-Junco, *Auburn University*
Dirk vom Lehn, *King's College London*

Routledge, April 2026

Upcoming Conferences and Events

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](#).

Interactional Competences and Practices in a Second Language Conference (August 24-26, 2026)

The fifth Interactional Competences and Practices in a Second Language Conference (ICOP-L2) will be held at Newcastle University in the North-East of England, and hosted by the University's Applied Linguistics & Communication (ALC) research team. ALC at Newcastle has a long and proud history of research in social interaction research, and L2 interaction more specifically, dating back over 20 years. Plenary speakers include Silvia Kunitz, Paul Seedhouse, and Daniel Lam.

Additionally, the conference will have Research Connect sessions dedicated to creating links between early career researchers and more experienced academics. These sessions are designed to help you build meaningful connections, exchange insights and discuss new opportunities.

For more information, visit the conference [website](#).

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

How I Came to EMCA Stories

Every scholar has an origin 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 \$57 credit, the cost of a 2025 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.

