

**Communication 765:
Seminar in Conversational Interaction - Embodied Actions**

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Course Description

This seminar draws attention to the close analysis of videorecorded and transcribed interactions. We will focus on the interactional organization of "embodied actions", built and shaped by participants as they produce and rely upon vocal, nonvocal, and nonverbal communication resources. By expanding analysis from vocal to visible forms of interaction, we seek a holistic understanding of how communication evolves "scenically". Participants' bodies become the primary site for the interplay of personal and social sensitivities, i.e. what speakers orient to and treat as relevant as they configure their involvements, achieve co-presence, and secure visual and auditory access. In real time, co-present speakers continually draw upon their affordances of a visibly built and material environment - for example, speaking and moving in ways that communicate personal troubles and evidence bodily discomforts - as enacted animations are visibly made available for viewing, understanding, and possible response. Specific attention will thus be drawn to participants' facial expressions, eye gaze, hand gestures, posture, and shifting orientations (head, torso, pelvis, knees) as these body parts get collectively coordinated throughout the examined excerpt. Speakers' use of objects (e.g., pens, documents, food) will also be shown to be communicatively relevant to managing scenes and settings.

Text(s)

One xeroxed package of initial readings is available at Aztec Book Store (second floor); reserve readings on first floor of Love Library. Readings may also emerge as class progresses, and will be made available as the semester evolves - either on check-out from me in my office, and or on reserve.

Projects & Evaluation

Data Analysis #1:	15%
Data Collection/Digitization:	20%
Final Research Project:	50%
Seminar Participation:	15%
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	100%

Fifteen percent of your final grade will emerge from analysis of data handed out to you during the second seminar. An excerpt, transcription, and brief handout will be provided at that time.

Twenty percent of your final grade will involve the collection of videorecorded data of naturally occurring interactions. These data collection procedures will be discussed in advance, beginning with the initial seminar. These data may be of your choosing. Following review, selected data excerpts will be digitized, and 'frame grabs' will be generated. Instruction on these technologies will be an integral part of the seminar, used and relied upon for completion of the final research project.

Your final research project will comprise **fifty percent** of your final grade. A handout will be provided later in the seminar which describes the goals of this investigation - an inquiry offering close analysis of the sequential organization of videorecorded and digitized interactions.

Finally, **fifteen percent** of the final grade will be based on seminar participation: Regular and prompt attendance; preparation (i.e., critical examination of readings, data analysis); constructive, thoughtful, and detailed involvements in class discussions and activities (including assigned presentations and independent research); initiative revealed through individual innovativeness and displayed motivation.

Seminars

I. Introduction: Moving Toward Embodiment

Beach, W.A. & LeBaron, C. (in press). Body disclosures: Attending to personal problems and reported sexual abuse in a medical encounter. Journal of Communication.

II. Embodied Methods & Issues

Jones, S.E. & LeBaron, C.D. (in press). Research on the relationship between verbal and nonverbal communication. Emerging integrations. (Journal of Communication: Special Issue on the Relationship between Verbal and Nonverbal Communication)

Goodwin, C. (1993). Recording interaction in natural settings. Pragmatics, 3, 181-209.

Heath, C. (1986). Video analysis: Interactional coordination in movement and speech. Body movement and speech in medical interaction. Cambridge: University Press, pp. 1-24.

III. Embodiment of Gaze & Gesture

Goodwin, C. (1980). Restarts, pauses, and the achievement of a state of mutual gaze at turn-beginning. Sociological Inquiry, 50, pp. 277-302.

Streeck, J. (1993). Gesture as communication I: Coordination with gaze and speech. Communication Monographs, 60, 275-299.

Streeck, J. (1994). Gesture as communication II: The audience as co-author. Research on Language and Social Interaction. 27 (3), (Special Issue: Is Gesture Communicative? Ed. by A. Kendon), 239-267.

Schegloff, E.A. (1984). On some gestures' relation to talk. In J.M. Atkinson & J. Heritage (Eds.), Structures of social action: Studies in conversation analysis (266-296). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

IV. Embodied Interactions about Health & Illness

Heath, C. (1986). Forms of participation. Body movement and speech in medical interaction. Cambridge: University Press, pp. 76-98.

Robinson, J.D. (1998). Getting down to business: Talk, gaze, and body orientation during openings of doctor-patient consultations. Human Communication Research, 25, 97-123.

Robinson, J.D. (2001). Closing medical encounters: Two physician practices and their implications for the expressions of patients' unstated concerns. Social Science & Medicine, 53, 639-656.

Heath, C. (in press). Demonstrative suffering: The gestural (re)embodiment of symptoms. Journal of Communication.

Stivers, T. & Heritage, J. (2001). Breaking the sequential mold: Answering 'more than the question' during comprehensive history taking. Text, 21, 151-185.

Johanna Ruusuvuori (2001). Looking means listening: Coordinating displays of engagement in doctor-patient interaction. Social Science & Medicine, 52, 1093-1108.

Goodwin, C. (1995a). Co-constructing meaning in conversations with an aphasic man. Research on language and social interaction, 28, 233-260.

V. Embodied Actions Comprising Alternative Social Settings

LeBaron, C.D. & Jones, S.E. (in press). Closing up closings: Showing the relevance of the social and material surround to the completion of interaction. Journal of Communication.

LeBaron, C. & Streeck, J. (1997). Built space and the interactional framing of experience during a murder interrogation. Human Studies, 20, 1-25.

Goodwin, C. (1995b). Seeing in depth. Social studies of science, 25, 237-274.

Goodwin, C. (1996). Transparent vision. In E. Ochs, E. Schegloff, and S. Thompson (Eds.) Interaction and grammar. Cambridge: University Press, pp. 370-404.