



**An Introduction to the Methods of Conversation Analysis  
16th-18th October 2009**

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Conversation Analysis (CA) is increasingly widely used as a research methodology in Sociology, Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Social Psychology, the Health Sciences and other related disciplines. We are offering a short course designed to give an introduction to the basic principles and methods of CA. It is intended for those who have had little previous experience with conversation analysis but who are interested in what it might offer them in their own research, and are considering whether to use this method in their doctoral or post-doctoral research. It may also serve as a refresher course for those with some previous experience of CA, and who now want to teach or research in this area. Ideally participants will already have, or be in the process of recording, their own data (e.g. doctor/patient or other medical interaction, family conversations, helplines, meetings of various kinds, interactions in educational settings and so on). But this is not essential – participants may also be at an earlier stage in planning their research. The course would suit graduate/post-doc researchers in any relevant discipline.

The course will be limited to no more than 15 participants who will work intensively with the two tutors to develop basic skills in transcription and in understanding the conversation analytic approach to talk as action. We will introduce participants to key analytic tools and methodological techniques in analysing data, including making collections of phenomena and analysing interactional patterns and practices, on the basis of those collections. The course will be organised through talks and practical activities and exercises, with an emphasis on hands-on work with data; an indicative reading list and course reader will also be provided.

So this short training course is intended to equip researchers to:

- Transcribe their data appropriately
- Understand and apply the basic concepts of CA
- Identify and explore the management of social actions in talk-in-interaction
- Identify specific interactional patterns and phenomena in original data
- Make collections of those phenomena, as an essential step towards analysis
- Explore the connections between the details of talk, and different interactional/ethnographic settings
- Consider whether CA might be an appropriate methodology for their project, and what it might have to offer for their research

The course tutors are Paul Drew and Merran Toerien, who have considerable experience as teachers and researchers in CA, and are internationally known for their work in this area. Paul Drew's research has focused on some of the basic practices of ordinary conversation, and on the application of CA to understanding professional and institutional (especially medical and legal) interactions (he works with both sociologists, linguists and health care professionals; many of his graduate students are linguists). Merran Toerien holds an RCUK (Research Councils UK) fellowship in the Sociology Department. She has expertise in the application of CA both to political (eg. feminist) concerns, and to institutional interactions; she has done research on how nurses recruit patients to medical trials; and is currently researching (with Paul Drew) on interviews with benefits claimants in Job Centres.

The course fee is £320 for three days. This includes course materials, a course reader, references and a Certificate of Attendance; and lunches, tea and coffee for the three days. An informal dinner will be organised for Saturday 17th October at 7.00 pm at a city centre restaurant. The cost will be approximately £15-20 and will be payable on the evening.

The University of York offers bed and breakfast accommodation on campus at reasonable rates. This can be booked either on-line or by telephone.

Please check the web site <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/accom/returner/usefullocal.htm>

The course will commence at 12 noon on Friday 16th October, and finish at approximately 4.00 pm on 18th October. Details of the programme will be confirmed at a later date.

The deadline for registration is **the 25th September**; but bearing in mind the limited availability, early enquiries are welcome; places will be reserved in the order enquiries are received.

For further details about registering for the course, please contact Sarah Shrive-Morrison, Department of Sociology, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD. Email: [ssm500@york.ac.uk](mailto:ssm500@york.ac.uk) or telephone +44 (0) 1904 433064.