

TWO CALLS FOR PAPERS FOR EDITED BOOKS

We invite submissions of abstracts for two edited books collecting research studies using naturally occurring recorded data, and drawing on insights and approaches of conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, and multimodal interaction analysis.

1. Multitasking and interaction
2. Objects and interaction

Edited book on “Multitasking and interaction”

Editors:

Pentti Haddington, University of Helsinki
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Edited book on “Objects and interaction”

Editors:

Maurice Nevile, University of Oulu
Pentti Haddington, University of Helsinki
Trine Heinemann, University of Southern Denmark
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1. Multitasking and interaction

We seek contributions for an edited book of studies concerning multitasking in everyday, institutional and workplace interactions. In multitasking situations participants interact when simultaneously involved in one or more other activity. The volume will feature an introduction and a collection of original studies. Apart from researchers within conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, and multimodal interaction analysis, the book will appeal to a wider audience with readers in the fields of pragmatics, gesture studies, workplace studies, communication, sociology and psychology.

Multitasking has been studied extensively in psychology, cognitive sciences and communication research. In these fields multitasking is usually considered as an individual's concern, generating cognitive overload and degrading performance, and thus impeding efficiency and posing a potential threat to safety.

What is less well understood, however, and what an interactionally grounded perspective adopted in the volume can offer, is how multitasking situations are organised, managed, and accomplished in social interaction. This volume treats multitasking as an interactional phenomenon. Interaction researchers have described situations of multiple concurrent activities as ‘multiactivity’ (e.g. Mondada (2006) on

multiactivity as timed coordination of various simultaneous activities; and cf. Goffman (1963) on multiple involvements, or Schegloff (1998) on multiple courses of action). Studies can show, for example: how the demands and features of involvement in multiple activities are coordinated, simultaneously or sequentially; how some courses of action are postponed in favour of others, or are resumed later, for example when one action is prioritised over a secondary action; how activities can be smoothly managed and achieved with others, versus excluding other relevant and possible concurrent activities; how participants shift from one activity to another; how participants draw on linguistic and embodied practices to coordinate multitasking, and to display and understand commitment to several activities; how space and time feature in multitasking, and so on.

The volume aims to understand better how multitasking is interactionally and praxeologically organised, and to contribute to conceptualise 'multitasking' from an emic perspective: what does it mean interactionally and socially when participants engage in multiple activities? Do participants treat multitasking / multiactivity in terms of simultaneity or sequentiality, or perhaps (and likely) both? How are multitasking / multiactivity situations ordered and accomplished, recognisably and meaningfully, in and through co-participants' concerted action? More generally, the studies in the volume also contribute to key interests of conversation analysis, such as sequence, repair, action, adjacency, participation, multimodality, temporality, materiality, space, and embodiment.

2. Objects and interaction

We seek contributions for an edited book of studies concerning objects and interaction. The volume will feature an introduction and a collection of original studies. Apart from researchers within conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, and multimodal interaction analysis, the book will appeal to a wider audience with readers in the fields of pragmatics, gesture studies, workplace studies, design, communication, sociology and psychology.

While many previous studies have included analyses of how objects feature in interaction, relatively few studies have treated objects as their specific focus. This collection will bring such studies together to develop our understanding of how objects contribute to or are constituted through social action in both everyday and work/institutional settings. In this view, we do not see 'objects' as necessarily restricted to what people might touch and pick up and handle (e.g. 'use'), but could include items within the immediate or even wider environment, what people point or refer to, for example as something that can be identified and isolated. Indeed, just what counts as an 'object' can be an interesting and demanding challenge for participants and analysts alike.

The studies will therefore consider objects as situated, embodied, and tied to the material and spatial circumstances of interaction. Objects might be handled, placed, assembled, talked about, pointed to etc., in ways which reveal something of how participants meaningfully construct and understand both their practical activities and also objects themselves. For example, how do objects and their involvement in interaction contribute to emerging courses of action, how are objects perceived,

treated and constituted as this or that object, or for accomplishing this or that activity, or from this or that material, within surrounding space, relative to these participants and their goals, here and now?

One important rationale behind the volume is that studies of objects and interaction can in new and important ways tie closely and powerfully to both key established and emerging areas of research, such as turn and sequential analysis, repair, openings and closings, gesture and embodied conduct, temporality, persons and participation, formulations, action, and so on.

Schedule for both books

We ask interested researchers for either volume to submit abstract proposals of around 750 words. Proposals should outline the methodology used, the nature and extent of data, and preliminary explanations of interests, phenomena, analytic directions, and possible value and implications. We anticipate the following schedule:

- Deadline for abstract proposals (750 words): September 15, 2011.
- Editors' decision for acceptance: October 15, 2011
- Full proposal to publisher (with abstracts): November, 2011
- Deadline for invited first drafts for peer review: May 2012
- Final manuscripts due: November/December 2012

Please send abstract proposals, and make any enquiries, to the first listed editor of the relevant volume:

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