

Workshop

Conversation Analysis (CA) as a Method for Investigating Social Life

Speaker: Professor Paul Drew

Department of Sociology
University of York, UK

Abstract

This session offers a brief introduction to the basic principles of CA and its focus on social actions, and how participants understand one another's actions during interaction. I will outline the methods of CA, including our investigations of the underlying practices (competencies) of talking and reasoning in interaction through collections; it is through collections of phenomena (collections which often have a comparative dimension) that we explore, test and demonstrate that certain practices are systematic in their use and interactional consequences. I'll illustrate our methods through various examples, for instance relating to requesting and complaining. And I'll outline the ways in which CA has been applied to understanding the role of interaction in some of the core areas of social life (medicine, media, education, law etc). The session will have a practical component, so bring something to write with!



Paul Drew (b.1948) is Professor of Sociology at the University of York, UK, where he has taught since 1973 – though with periods of teaching and research in the US and a number of European countries. His research in Conversation Analysis focuses on the underlying practices that make communication and understanding possible in all forms of interaction; and includes published work on repair in conversation, figurative expressions and the organization of topic, exaggerating and, most recently, activities that are particularly associated with affiliation/disaffiliation (requesting, offering and complaining). He has applied the methods of CA to understanding communication in more specialized institutional settings, especially legal and, more recently, medical interactions *Order in Court*, with Max Atkinson; *Talk at Work*, with John Heritage). His consultancy work includes the London Metropolitan Police, the Palo Alto Research Centre (PARC), and a medical PR company.

15 December 2006 (Friday), 2:00- 4:00 p.m.

LG02, Hui Oi Chow Science Building, The University of Hong Kong

Chair: Dr Chris Davison, Faculty of Education, HKU

All postgraduate students and interested parties are welcome.

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