

Longitudinal Studies in Conversation Analysis

Swiss Methods Festival Guest Session

Session Organisers:
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6th ESRC Research Methods Festival

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Programme

- ❖ 16:00 Welcome & Introduction: Longitudinal studies in conversation analysis
Prof. Thomas Eberle (University of St. Gallen) & Prof. Esther González-Martínez (University of Fribourg & Haute école de santé Arc)
- ❖ 16:10 Documenting change across time: An au-pair girl's storytellings within the host family
Prof. Simona Pekarek Doehler (University of Neuchâtel)
- ❖ 16:35 Keeping it together: Emic resources for cross-situational coherence
Prof. Fritjof Sahlström (University of Helsinki)
- ❖ 17:00 Second language acquisition in the wild
Prof. Johannes Wagner (University of Southern Denmark)

Introduction

1. History and Design of the Swiss Methods Festival
2. Longitudinal Studies in Conversation Analysis

History and design of the SwissMF

Problems in 2000:

- ❖ Many qualitative researchers, little recognition (few professors, many misunderstandings among colleagues)
- ❖ Reviews of qualitative projects submitted to the Swiss National Foundation used inadequate criteria
- ❖ Heterogeneous field of Qualitative Research (different paradigmatic, theoretical and methodological assumptions; different schools fighting each other)

Strategy of the Swiss Science Policy Council 2001:

- ❖ Building a network among qualitative researchers
- ❖ Publishing a manifesto (signed by 60 professors)
- ❖ Building a qualidata archive
- ❖ Organizing Swiss Methods Festivals

Manifesto:

Qualitative Research Methods

Statement

Methoden qualitativer Sozialforschung

Manifest

Méthodes de recherche qualitative

Déclaration



1. QR uses different but scientific methods
2. QR must be assessed along adequate quality criteria
3. We urge funding institutions, journal editors and publishers to enforce this
4. We urge universities to provide a solid training in qualitative methods
5. QR needs adequate infrastructures and resources

http://qualitative-research.ch/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Manifest_Qualitative_Sozialforschung.pdf

Design of the Swiss Methods Festival (since 2011)

- ❖ Presentation of state of the art methods and methodologies by leading experts of those fields
- ❖ Representing a great variety of QR approaches (usually missing in university curricula)
- ❖ Research workshops where doctoral students can discuss their work-in-progress with experts
- ❖ Trilingual (German, French, English)

Conversation Analysis

- ❖ An analytical approach drawing from sociological work by Goffman (1959) and Garfinkel (1967) and founded by Harvey Sacks, Emanuel Schegloff, and Gail Jefferson (1974)
- ❖ Recurrent and stable practices of talking-in-interaction that participants deploy to produce social action
- ❖ Turn and turn-taking organization, sequence organization, the organization of repair, the organization of word selection, overall structural organization

Conversation Analysis Methods

- ❖ Audio or video recordings of naturally occurring interactions
- ❖ Detailed transcription (Jefferson, 2004)
- ❖ Describing what is being done (action) and how it is being accomplished (practices). Explaining the fit between action and practices
- ❖ Single-case analysis or case-by-case analysis of collections of excerpts
- ❖ Example: the conversational organization of telephone-call openings

	123	247a	263	121
0	ring	ring	ring	ring
1 R	Hello::,	Hallo,	Hello,	Hello,
2 C	H'llo, Clara?	Hello Jim?	Hi Ida?	Hi. Susan?
3 R	Yeh,	Yeah,	Yeah	Ye:s,
4 C	Hi. Bernie.	's Bonnie.	Hi, = This is Carla	This's Janet. Weinstein
5 R	Hi Bernie.	Hi,	Hi Carla.	<u>Janet!</u>
6 C	How're you.	Hi, how are yuh	How are you.	hhehh <u>Susan.</u>

Schegloff (1986)

Comparative Conversation Analysis

- ❖ Horizontal (across settings, cultures, or languages) and vertical (across time) conversation analytic comparative research (Zimmerman, 1999)
- ❖ Horizontal: Haakana et al. (2009), Sidnell (2009)
- ❖ Vertical: interactional practices of very young children (Filippi, 2009; Forrester, 2008; Wootton, 1997); conversational practices in educational settings (Hellerman, 2008; Pekarek Doehler, Pochon-Berger, 2011); professional interactional competences (Hosoda, Aline, 2010; Nguyen, 2012; Rine, Hall, 2011); conversational patterns in therapeutic encounters (Martin, Sahlström, 2010; Wilkinson et al, 1998, 2007); series of calls between relatives (Beach, 2009); questioning during US presidential news conferences (Clayman, Heritage, 2002)

Methodological Challenges

- ❖ Taking into consideration the fact that change may lie not only in the action being accomplished but also in the practice used to accomplish it
- ❖ Looking for the phenomenon under examination in identical or comparable sequential environments of relevant possible occurrence
- ❖ Taking into consideration the fact that, over time, sequential contexts may vary at least as much as participants change their practices or their actions within them
- ❖ Looking for the phenomenon under examination in activities relying on the same speech-exchange system
- ❖ Providing robust evidence of change over time

(Schegloff, 1993, 1996, 2009)

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