

Beyond turns and shared spaces: Emerging methods in Conversation Analysis

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Conversation Analysis (CA) is an approach for studying social interaction. It focuses on the details of talk and embodied conduct and how they contribute to the production and interpretation of the action they perform in their temporal, sequential and material context. CA's aim is to understand the systematics and regularities of how people – together – accomplish activities, establish understandings and create order as part of their everyday activities. Importantly, the analysis should focus on the social participants' own orientations to the activity at hand, as displayed by their talk and embodied conduct. Since the early days of CA, and the primary focus on talk and the use of audio recordings as data, CA has developed into a method that uses video recordings to study the multimodal richness of action in a broad range of different and complex interactional settings. These developments have sometimes been characterised as different “turns”: the visual turn (Mondada, 2013), embodied turn (Nevile, 2015) and material turn (Nevile, et al. 2014). This change has involved and required new directions and developments of CA as a method. In this talk, I will provide one angle to CA's development by discussing research done in three projects over the past ten years: iTask, PeaceTalk, and AIDA. First, I will discuss how CA can be used to study how participants' joint interactional histories – beyond immediately prior talk and actions – contribute action formation and ascription (Deppermann, 2018; Deppermann and Haddington, in press). Second, I will explore different methods for studying digital interactions where the participants are physically located in different places and what such methods can reveal about the organisation of social interaction.