

## Landing in the midst of things

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*November 21, 18h00-19h00*

Accountability inhabits a central place in the writings of the American sociologist, Harold Garfinkel (2002) and it is a foundational principle for the school of sociology that he founded. He theorized that accountability was implicated in the production of what Durkheim termed *social facts*. Recent attention (e.g., Nevile et al., 2014) has turned to « objects as practical accomplishments » (p. 3), that is, in the ways that materiality features into unfolding interaction. In the current presentation, I would like to apply Garfinkel's ideas pertaining to the accountable production of social facts, to the processes whereby material objects are accountably produced within interaction. To make this discussion a bit more concrete, we will examine two excerpts from a previously published analysis (Koschmann et al., 2011). That analysis focused on the constitution of a particular anatomical feature during the conduct of a surgical procedure carried out at a teaching hospital. The presentation will conclude by exploring how an analytic focus on accountability, particularly the accountability of produced objects, might shed new light on interactional competences in institutional settings.

### References:

- Garfinkel, H. (2002). *Ethnomethodology's program: Working out Durkheim's aphorism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Koschmann, T., LeBaron, C., Goodwin, C., & Feltovich, P. (2011). "Can you see the cystic artery yet?" A simple matter of trust. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 43, 521-541.
- Nevile, M., Haddington, P., Heinemann, T., & Rauniomaa, M. (2014). On the interactional ecology of objects. In M. Nevile, P. Haddington, T. Heinemann & M. Rauniomaa (Eds.), *Interacting with objects: Language, materiality, and social activity* (pp. 3-26). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.