

Summer school, Metochi monastery, Lesbos, 11-15 May 2026

Longitudinal Conversation Analysis: Empirical insights and methodological challenges



Invited speakers:

Steven Clayman (UCLA)
Arnulf Deppermann (IDS Mannheim)
Pentti Haddington (Oulu Univ.)

Organizers:

Simona Pekarek Doehler (Univ. Neuchâtel) & Klara Skogmyr Marian (Stockholm Univ.)

Description

We humans are fundamentally social beings: We rely on mutually understandable ways of interacting with each other to establish intercomprehension and to coordinate our respective actions in diverse social settings, ranging from dinner-table conversations to workplace interactions. We do so based on socio-culturally elaborated and shared 'methods' (Garfinkel 1964) – that is: systematic procedures for accomplishing social actions and coordinating these with others: methods for opening or closing conversations, for taking turns-at-talk, for displaying disagreement, etc. The sharedness of such methods among members of a given community is axiological to the building of mutual understanding and, ultimately, of social order. But how do members develop such methods and related resources and practices? How do they adapt them over time, over repeated social encounters and interactional experiences, or as part of socio-cultural change?

This summer school addresses these questions from a micro-level perspective focused on the detailed analysis of people's situated interactional conduct as observable in (video)-recorded longitudinal data and fine-grained transcripts of such data. While change in human conduct is at the core of many lines of research, ranging from psychological investigations of child development, through linguistic research on historical language change, to sociological studies on (macro)societal change, the micro-level details of change over time in people's contextualized interactional practices have only recently started to be

explored in systematic ways (for earlier exceptions see Wootton 1997 and Clayman & Heritage 2002). This line of research is currently attracting growing interest within an interdisciplinary field that has materialized under the label of *longitudinal Conversation Analysis* (short: *longitudinal CA*; see the papers in Pekarek Doehler, Wagner & González-Martínez 2018 and Pekarek Doehler & Deppermann 2021).

Bringing together (early career) researchers and renowned international experts from diverse fields (linguistics, sociology, education, communication...), the summer school sets out to advance our understanding of a range of interrelated dimensions of change in people's interactional practices and resources. These include how people change their interactional conduct as they learn a first or second language or navigate a new professional context, how people adapt their mutual conduct based on increased familiarity with each other and growing shared knowledge, and how whole communities of practice (e.g., members of a given institution) change their communicative patterns across decades. The summer school puts a special emphasis on the methodological challenges related to conducting longitudinal Conversation Analysis – from data collection, through the establishment of collections to data analysis and interpretation of results. The event comprises plenary lectures and hands-on training sessions led by our invited speakers, work-in-progress presentations by PhD students, post-docs, and other interested researchers, as well as time for group-work sessions and social gatherings.

The workshop will accommodate 25 participants and 5 plenary speakers, giving priority to early career researchers from diverse countries and linguistic backgrounds. The program will run from Monday morning, 11 May 2026, to Friday afternoon, 15 May 2026, with one afternoon allocated to a joint excursion. Registration comprises lodging and food from Sunday 10 May (afternoon) to Sunday 17 May (morning).

List of speakers

Prof. Steven Clayman (UCLA, United States) has pioneered research on socio-historical change in institutional interactional practices over extended periods of time (e.g., Clayman & Heritage 2002). A professor of sociology, his research focuses on human interaction in institutional contexts such as media interviews and the political arena. His co-authored book *Talk in Action. Interactions, Identities, Institutions* (2010) has become a classical reference in the field. <https://clayman.scholar.ss.ucla.edu/>.

Prof. Arnulf Deppermann (Leipzig Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Germany) is the key figure in research on interactional histories (e.g., Deppermann 2018), tracking how the joint construction of shared knowledge shapes people's interactional practices. With a background in psychology, pragmatics and communication, he is known for his interdisciplinary approach: <https://www.ids-mannheim.de/prag/personal/deppermann/>.

Prof. Pentti Haddington (Oulu Uni., Finland) is renowned for his work on change in interactional group-dynamics, with a recent focus on UN Military Observer Training (e.g., Haddington 2022). A professor of English and Social Interaction, he is currently leading two international projects relevant to this workshop: *Talk and Interaction in Multinational Crisis Management Training; Action and Intersubjectivity in the Digital Age*. <https://www.oulu.fi/en/researchers/pentti-haddington>.

Prof. Simona Pekarek Doehler (U. Neuchâtel) has conducted seminal research on grammar-in-interaction and on the development of interactional competence in a second language. A professor of Applied Linguistics, she has co-edited two volumes on longitudinal CA (e.g., Pekarek Doehler & Deppermann 2021) and discussed the methodological challenges of this line of research. <https://www.unine.ch/isla/biographie/simona-pekarek-doebler>

Assoc. Prof. Klara Skogmyr Marian (Stockholm U.) is renowned for her longitudinal investigations on the development of interactional competence, amongst which a book-long study on complaining in

interaction (e.g., Skogmyr Marian 2022). An associate professor of Bilingualism, her main research interest lies in the interface between social interaction and second language learning. <https://www.su.se/english/profiles/klask6533-1.223424>

Practicalities

Application

Application to the summer school is done via the following online form:

<https://forms.gle/EnB1ySRrAwCnXAMN7>

In the application form, you will be asked to provide a brief description of yourself, what you are working with, why you want to participate in the summer school, etc. There are no particular prerequisites for participation, but it will be useful to have some background in CA, ethnomethodology, Interactional Linguistics, or related fields. In case there are more interested participants than available places, PhD students and other early career researchers will be given priority.

Application deadline: 30 Sept. 2025

Participation fee: EUR 395

The participation fee includes lodging and full board from Sunday 10 May through Sunday 17 May 2026. Certain additional costs (excursion with dinner, bike rental, etc.) are covered by the participants.

Participation fee waiver

We aim to sponsor a maximum of three participants (full exemption of fee), with a priority given to researchers from financially strained countries/institutions. Please contact us directly through the emails below for more information.

Accommodation

The summer school will take place at the beautiful Metochi monastery and study center on Lesbos, Greece. Participants will share rooms (max 3 people/room, same gender); bathrooms are located on the same floor. For more information about Metochi, see <https://www.uia.no/english/about-uia/centres-and-networks/metochi/>.

Getting to Metochi

Many flights go through Athens, then to Mytilene airport on Lesbos (airport transfer to the monastery will be coordinated). You should plan to arrive on Sunday 10 May and depart on Saturday 16 May or Sunday 17 May (morning).

Contact

Simona Pekarek Doehler (simona.pekarek@unine.ch)

Klara Skogmyr Marian (klara.skogmyr-marian@su.se)