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"Interactional Space: The Embodied Organization of Participation and Turn-Taking"

The paper focuses on the embodied arrangements of the participants within space, as it is dynamically and actively achieved through social interaction and through the disposition of the participants' bodies. It aims at showing the way in which the organization of talk is deeply embedded in and reflexively shaped by these arrangements. The spatial arrangement of the participants (Goffman, 1963, Scheflen, 1972) has been described in terms of F-Formation (Kendon, 1990), ecology of action (Heath et alii, 2002), distribution of semiotic resources within contextual configurations (Goodwin, 2002), interactional space (Mondada, 2005, 2009); this focus highlights the methodical embodied practices through which participants organize participation as well as the details of turn-taking and recipient design. Participants' disposition within space displays mutual attention and reciprocity, as well as shared attention towards objects. The paper focuses on transitions between these two forms of attention and the way in which talk is multimodally organized in both of them. Spatial arrangements are crucially related to the public accountability and accessibility (audibility and visibility) of the multimodal resources mobilized for the organization of turn-taking. Using a variety of video recordings of naturally occurring interactions, both in ordinary and in professional settings, the paper deals with the establishment and transformations of interactional spaces within various kinds of activities, showing how interactional space is actively achieved by participants and how it is constantly reconfigured within sequential organization, in a way that highlights changes in participation frameworks and within the emergent construction of turns at talk.