

SOCIAL INTERACTION: ETHNOMETHODOLOGY & CONVERSATION ANALYSIS (SOCI 3235)

Second Term, 2021-2022

Sino Building, UG06, Tuesdays 8:30am-10:15am

Sino Building, WFY4084B, Mondays, 2:30pm-4:15pm

Instructor: Prof. Christian Greiffenhagen (Email: c.greiffenhagen@cuhk.edu.hk).

Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Assistants: Yani Liu (Email: yani.liu@link.cuhk.edu.hk);

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Office Hours: By appointment.

ABOUT THE COURSE

In this course, we will investigate social phenomena that are so familiar they can escape our notice. Yet, they are highly patterned and massively important to our lives and to the organization of the social world. We will begin with Ethnomethodology (EM), the study of how people use various sense-making resources to collaboratively achieve the reality of the social world and find meaning within it. We then turn to Conversation Analysis (CA), to learn about the structure of talk-in-interaction and the conversational practices people use to accomplish social actions – and achieve the visibility of social roles and identities – within interaction in everyday and institutional settings.

The course is hands-on. You will be actively engaged in doing ethnographic observations and making your own video-recordings, as well as transcribing and analysing data. There will be frequent in-class activities and discussions, so be prepared and ready to contribute. You will need to work with recorded materials in a patient and systematic manner. Through your engagement in the course, you will gain an appreciation of the importance of real-time, observable behaviours for the accomplishment and maintenance of social reality. You will also develop your powers of observation, attention to detail, and analytical skills.