

# **Transcribing Now**

## **Means and Meanings in the Transcription of Spoken Interaction**

A symposium in association with the  
Conference on Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO)  
McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Sunday, May 15, 2005

Researchers from a broad range of fields find themselves compelled to (re-)consider the nature of their relationship to a common evidentiary practice: the transcription of recordings of naturally occurring spoken interaction. This workshop brings together scholars from an interdisciplinary range of perspectives to take stock of some of the key cross-cutting issues in transcription – theory and practice, representation and politics – that continue to have such important, if often unnoticed, implications for how we come to an understanding of the phenomena which are to be discovered in spoken interaction.

The invited speakers all share an orientation to the evidence of naturally occurring spoken interaction (as mediated through audio and/or video recordings), and yet maintain a variety of transcription practices that reflects the diversity of their goals, theoretical orientations, and analytical practices. Despite this diversity, or because of it, now seems an especially opportune moment in the development of our respective fields to come to terms with our common orientation to the challenges of transcription.

### **Program**

#### ***Gathering***

8:00 Coffee and morning refreshments

#### ***Introduction***

8:20 Why transcribing this matters now  
*Mary Bucholtz (UCSB, Linguistics) and John Du Bois (UCSB, Linguistics)*

### **Transcribing as Practice and Performance**

#### ***Presentations***

8:30 The culture of transcription: Properties and paradoxes  
*Alessandro Duranti (UCLA, Anthropology)*

9:00 Transcribing across languages  
*Robert Englebretson (Rice U, Linguistics)*

#### ***Discussion***

9:30 Transcribing within an ethnographic study: Text, context, and intertextuality  
*Judith Green (UCSB, Education)*

9:45 A Conversation Analysis perspective  
*Emanuel Schegloff (UCLA, Sociology)*

10:00 General discussion

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

## Transcription Design

### **Presentations**

- 10:30 Multi-modal representation of multi-modal interaction  
*Charles Goodwin (UCLA, Applied Linguistics)*
- 11:00 Adequacy, user-friendliness, and practicality in transcribing  
*Wallace Chafe (UCSB, Linguistics)*

### **Discussion**

- 11:30 Contextualization in speech and its representation  
*John Gumperz (UC Berkeley, Anthropology)*
- 11:45 General discussion
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch break

## Transcription System Comparison

### **Panel/Data Session**

- 1:30-3:00 Comparison of transcription systems with a common recording
- 1:30-1:40 Transcription practicum
  - 1:40-2:00 Prosody in a delicacy/granularity hierarchy for Discourse Transcription (DT)  
*John Du Bois (UCSB, Linguistics)*
  - 2:00-2:20 Transcribing intonation with Tones and Break Indices (ToBI)  
*Matthew Gordon (UCSB, Linguistics)*
  - 2:20-2:40 Conversation Analysis transcription  
*Gail Jefferson (Independent Researcher, Rinsumageest) and Gene Lerner (UCSB, Sociology)*
  - 2:40-3:00 Data session and general discussion
- 3:00-3:15 Coffee break

## Transcription as Representation

### **Presentations**

- 3:15 Variation in transcription  
*Mary Bucholtz (UCSB, Linguistics)*
- 3:45 Orthography, voice and other-representation in transcription  
*Alexandra Jaffe (CSU-Long Beach, Linguistics)*

### **Discussion**

- 4:15 Transcription as writing  
*Charles Bazerman (UCSB, Education)*
- 4:30 Iconicities: a Linguistic Anthropology perspective  
*Michael Silverstein (U of Chicago, Anthropology and Linguistics)*
- 4:45 General discussion
- 5:00 Closing