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Recent projects as Principal investigator:

Intersensoriality: Achieving the intelligibility of multimodal resources in and for social interaction — 2024-2028 (SNF)

Rooted in conversation analysis and ethnomethodology, this project intends to complexify multimodal analysis by highlighting the role of the senses in the organization of social interaction. Hence it focuses not only what participants do in social interaction *do*, but also how what they do is *seen, heard*, and more generally *perceived by others*. Multimodal resources don't have an 'intrinsic' public accountability *per se*, they have to be perceived (even in a tacit way) by the coparticipants in order to make sense for them, and to be relevantly oriented to and addressed by them in their next responsive actions/turns. The project focuses in particular on body conduct, and on how the mobilization of various parts of the body in meaningful and relevant ways becomes of consequence when being actually sensorially accessed by the co-participants. More radically, the project develops a necessary complement to multimodal analysis—often focused on the production of the action—by considering *multisensoriality*—the way in which co-participants perceive each other with different senses. In this way it considers intersubjectivity as grounded on *intersensoriality*.

For doing so, the project provides analyses of talk and other forms of action in interaction within various *sensorial configurations*: it compares and discusses situations in which mutual sensorial access is either maximal or minimal and the consequences of this for the intelligibility of action. These variations in sensorial access depend on practical and interactional contingencies and largely on the dynamic *spatial arrangements* of the participants' bodies, more proximate (favoring 'close' senses like touch) or more distant (favoring 'distant' senses like gaze). In each case, both the mobilization of multimodal resources by speakers/doers and the orientation and responses of the co-participants will be systematically taken into consideration.

Team: Lorenza Mondada (PI), Sofian Bouaouina (Post-Doc), Guillaume Gauthier (Post-Doc), 2 CandDoc research assistants ; Hanna Svensson Univ. of Göteborg (external collaborator), Burak Tekin Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (external collaborator), David Monteiro Univ. Lusíada de Lisboa (external collaborator)

Making Bones Talk

Bodies, Materialities and Knowledge in the situated practices of forensic anthropology

A project in preparation -- currently conceived, developed and coordinated by:

Lorenza Mondada (Linguistics, University of Basel)

Fernanda Miranda da Cruz (Linguistics, Universidade Federal de São Paulo)

Edson Luis de Almeida Teles (Centro de Antropologia e Arqueologia Forense, Universidade Federal de São Paulo)

Several disciplines rely on various forms of *paradigma indiziario* (Ginzburg) to excavate the past by making objects talk – such as police inquiries, archeological excavations, and forensic investigations. Some of these disciplines address specific types of objects: human remnants, and more particularly bones. In this case, expert practitioners are involved in the reconstruction and identification of persons on the basis of human remains: this generates technical and scientific knowledge in a way that involves not only multidisciplinary expertise (from anthropology, archeology, forensic studies, medical studies and genetics...) but also an embodied engagement with various materialities, and in particular body materials.

In this project, we study the situated practices of a team of forensic experts, engaged with the identification of victims of forced disappearance in Brazil. These practices involve various aspects that intertwine epistemic, material and anthropological issues, connecting knowledge, sensoriality and politics in the everyday practice of working with bone remnants. The project pursues the study of these practices through ethnomethodology and conversation analysis (EMCA) on the basis of video recordings of the work of a forensic team reassembling the bones of victims. The study treats their collective situated practices as a perspicuous setting in which issues of scientific knowledge, embodied manual and sensorial knowledge, and political knowledge are deeply intertwined.

The five first words. Multilingual cities in Switzerland and Belgium and the grammar of language choice in public space — 2019-2023 (SNF).

SNF project directed by Lorenza Mondada and funded by the SNF — completed by an equivalent sister project funded by FWO/Belgium directed by Elwys De Stefani.

Encounters between unacquainted persons occur spontaneously and ubiquitously in contemporary communities. But how do individuals co-present in a shared space become participants in interaction? How do they manage the practical problem of entering into interaction without knowing which language the other speaks? Based on a video-corpus collected in several European countries (Switzerland, Belgium, France, Italy), this research project investigates embodied and multilingual practices in a variety of settings, thereby addressing three fields of investigation: openings of social encounters, multilingual talk “as it happens”, and gatherings in public space. It examines the diversity of resources individuals deploy to move into focused interaction with each other and by that means elucidates how embodied conduct and language choices are sensitive to how individuals socially categorise each other. This project takes a novel approach to examining how individuals engage in interaction in settings where multilingualism is at stake, e.g., because of history and given language policies, tourism, cosmopolitan work culture, etc. It provides a situated and detailed analysis of such encounters from an ethnomethodological and conversation analytic perspective.

Team in Basel : Lorenza Mondada (PI), Philipp Hänggi (CandDoc), Julia Schneerson (CandDoc), Hanna Svensson (Post-Doc), Laurent Camus (Post-Doc), Burak Tekin (Post-Doc and external collaborator).

From multimodality to multisensoriality: Language, Body, and Sensoriality in Social Interaction (intSenses) — 2018-2023 (SNF)

This project, generously founded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, aims at exploring issues in language and the body beyond classical multimodal analysis, by tackling the question of how sensory practices are organized in social interaction. The challenge is to expand current work on multimodality within the new field of multisensoriality, paving the way for new empirical and conceptual reflections about the intersubjectivity of sensations. More specifically the project investigates practices of tasting, touching and smelling in a diversity of food activities.

Team : Lorenza Mondada (PI), Sofian Bouaouina (CandDoc), Guillaume Gauthier (CandDoc), Mizuki Koda (CandDoc), Hanna Svensson (Post-Doc), Burak Tekin (Post-Doc), Laurent Camus (Post-Doc)

Human Sociality in the Age of Covid-19 (2020-2023)

The project *Human Sociality in the Age of Covid-19* aims at understanding both the foundations of embodied social interaction as revealed by the pandemic and the specific embodied conducts the pandemic has generated. In this sense the project addresses both fundamental theoretical issues and contingent issues contributing to a better understanding of the current uncertain historical moment. In this context, we want to spotlight how social, interpersonal, as well as formal relationships between persons coming and acting together in everyday life and work are changing.

The project was launched at the very beginning of the pandemic, in March 2020, by Lorenza Mondada together with Sofian Bouaouina, Guillaume Gauthier, Philipp Hänggi, Yeji Lee, Mizuki Koda, Julia Schneerson, Hanna Svensson, Burak Tekin.

Multimodality: Reconsidering language and action through embodiment — 2015-2018 (FiDiPro, Academy of Finland, University of Helsinki)

This project, generously founded by the Academy of Finland and hosted by the University of Helsinki, was aiming at exploring new frontiers in multimodal conversation analysis. It worked on an approach of multimodality that includes the entire body (from gesture to walking, from gaze to body postures, from movements in space to embodied actions with tools and objects) and that elaborates on a non-logocentric conception of language. The empirical part of the project focused on the establishment and study of a large comparative video corpus of shop encounters in 12 European languages.

Speaking in public: Social interactions within large groups. Contributions from a conversation analytic multimodal perspective — 2013-2017 (SNF)

This SNF project was aiming at providing new insights into participation in social interactions within larger groups of persons. Although conversation analysis has insisted on the importance of multi-party interactions, the organization of larger groups of participants – including dozens and even hundreds of people – remains understudied. This project tackled this issue and showed the importance of multimodal resources in the organization of turn-taking and other interactional practices in larger groups, and the way this revisits the notion of participation, both in an interactional sense and in a political sense. Empirically, the project focused on a video-recorded corpus of political grassroots meetings, within a participatory democracy urban planning program, which has been systematically documented across 8 years.