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This edited volume assembles studies largely conducted within the scientific network “Multimodality and Embodied Interaction” (DFG GE 1137/4-1), a relatively new strand of research in the study of social interaction. Drawing on data from a wide range of interactional contexts and informed by in Conversation Analysis and Interactional Linguistics, the studies take a bottom-up approach towards *embodied activities*, analyzing the participants’ patterned use of phonetic-prosodic, lexico-syntactic, and visuo-material resources when engaging in recurrent courses of action in face-to-face and mediated interaction. Data are taken from Chinese, Dutch, English, French, and German.

The edited volume is organized in terms of five parts which each consist of at least one chapter: I) Introduction – Theoretical and Methodological Issues, II) Objects in Space, III) Complex Participation Frameworks, IV) Affiliation and Alignment, V) Epilogue.

Part I provides a rich theoretical and methodological discussion of past and current research on embodied activities.

In a general introduction to the volume, “Embodied Activities”, the editors propose the notion of ‘activity’ as an analytic perspective on the thick descriptions that researchers face when studying video-recordings of naturally occurring social interaction. They argue that it is the participants’ orientation to an activity under way which shapes their use and understanding of phonetic-prosodic, lexico-syntactic, and visuo-material resources in interaction.

In the chapter “Activities as Discrete Organizational Domains”, Harrie Mazeland (Groningen) explores how activity types can be differentiated, proposing a continuum between activities where talk “entirely or almost entirely” constitutes the base line, and activities with “a series of physical actions or tasks as their base line”.

Discussing the methodological and theoretical implications of camera work when collecting video data, Lorenza Mondada (Basel) analyses visual conduct in the paper “Practices for Showing, Looking, and Videorecording: The Interactional Establishment of a Common Focus of Attention”. Specifically, she examines guided tours from the perspectives of the participants as well as of the researcher’s in situ practices of video recording for conversation analytic study.

The chapters in Part II “Objects in Space” are concerned with how participants traverse and/or interact with their material world, as well as manipulate, transform, and make relevant parts of this material world to engage in evolving activities.

In the chapter “Inspecting Objects: Visibility Manoeuvres in Laparoscopic Surgery”, Jeff Bezemer, Ged Murtagh and Alexandra Cope (University of London) discuss how surgeons identify and negotiate the physical structure of the patient’s body to turn it into meaningful entities for the activity under way. They also show how the patient’s unclear anatomy forces a negotiation of the participants’ roles, in that the consultant surgeon (the “teacher”) signals uncertainty and the surgical trainee makes unsolicited proposals.

In her chapter, Cornelia Gerhardt (Saarland) analyses “‘Showing’ as a Means of Engaging a Reluctant Participant into a Joint Activity” in a German interaction between a father and his eight-year-old daughter. She argues that the ‘showing’ gesture is functional in both keeping his daughter aligned with and engaged in the ongoing activity and constructing her as an expert with the epistemic authority to decide what to do with the object shown.

Being based on data generated through mobile eye-tracking technology, the contribution “Joint Attention in Passing: What Dual Mobile Eye Tracking Reveals About Gaze in Coordinating Embodied Activities at a Market” by Anja Stukenbrock (Basel) and Anh Nhi Dao (Freiburg) adds another angle to the methodological landscape in the volume. The authors show how gaze is relevant for participants in achieving joint attention on an object which is treated as a possible buyable by people shopping at the farmer’s market.

Part III “Complex Participation Frameworks” offers work on embodied activities which are performed in front of a (split) audience, i.e., music masterclasses, handball time outs, and parliamentary question time.

In their chapter “Multiparty Coordination Under Time Pressure: The Social Organization of Handball Team Time-Out Activities”, Christian Meyer and Ulrich v.

Wedelstaedt (Konstanz) study how intercorporeal resources deployed by coaches and players achieve a meaningful whole in a challenging environment of noise and distraction. Here human action is conceptualised as an intercorporeal ‘gestalt contexture’.

Elisabeth Reber’s (Würzburg) chapter “Punch and Judy’ Politics? Embodying Challenging Courses of Action in Parliament” describes a recurrent course of action, i.e., the enticing sequence, in British Prime Minister’s Questions. The analysis shows how participants use vocal, verbal, and visual resources to display (epistemic) authority, dominance, and power relations in time and space.

Darren Reed (York) focusses on a point of transition between two participation frameworks in musical master classes: His chapter “Assessments in Transition: Coordinating Participation Framework Transitions in Institutional Settings” traces the moment when the performance of the musicians is closed by applause from the audience and the master starts teaching the student.

Part IV focusses on embodied resources deployed to achieve “Affiliation and Alignment” in social activities.

Maxi Kupetz’s (Halle) chapter “Embodying Empathy in Everyday and Institutional Settings: On the Negotiation of Resources, Rights, and Responsibilities in Comforting Actions” demonstrates across different contexts that one can witness comforting actions as embedded in the same sequential structure: potentially stressful event/display of mental or physical distress – acknowledgement – (ongoing) displays of distress – comforting actions – orientation to ‘business as usual’/‘achievement of remedy’.

In her chapter “Negotiating Activity Closings with Reciprocal Head Nods in Mandarin Conversation”, Xiaoting Li (Alberta) illustrates how the closing of face-to-face activities can be negotiated in exploring the interactional functions of temporally and sequentially adjacent head nods.

Finally, Harrie Mazeland (Groningen) proposes the term ‘position expansion’ for turns by next speakers that piggyback prior turns and elaborate a stated position in his chapter “Position Expansion in Meeting Talk: An Interaction-Re-organizing Type of and-Prefaced Other-Continuation”.

In Part V “Epilogue”, the editors provide a final summary and discussion of the findings presented in the edited volume and identify prospects for research in multimodality and embodied interaction.

The volume contains notes on the contributors and an index.

Presenting research on a wide range of activities, the edited volume charts new territory with respect to our understanding of multimodality and embodied interaction in general as well as embodied activities in particular.

The key finding of the joint research conducted in the network, expressed in the edited volume, is that it is the overall activity or course of action (and not necessarily an embodied resource, practice or turn) which forms the basic unit of embodied interaction.

The contributions to the volume convincingly demonstrate that an analysis of how embodied coordination is accomplished in the production of turns and in the interaction between participants must put a focus on the situated use of the resources involved in the construction of activities. The studies reveal that these resources often encompass practices of visibility, i.e., practices that shape and manipulate the physical context to make it meaningful for the co-interlocutors and the activity at hand. The potential resources at the disposal of the participants are not assembled in arbitrary ways, but are finely attuned to the specific constraints and goals intertwining the language and body into meaningful multimodal gestalts both in the individual formation of actions and in interaction with participants. While activities may have different levels of organisation, i.e., more language based activities and activities engaged in through nonverbal, practical actions, there is no general primacy of one resource. As to the organisation of visuo-material resources, they can be deployed to implement non-verbal actions organised in sequences, e.g. in courses of action which are achieved through physical actions only as well as be simultaneously organised with ongoing speech, e.g., for stance-taking or turn-taking tasks.

In terms of prior research on activities, the volume shows that dichotomies like 'institutional' and 'everyday', as they are traditionally made in Conversation Analysis do not seem to be entirely helpful in demarcating differences in activities. Instead, one can differentiate between activities that are more oriented to the attainment of a practical goal versus those that have verbal actions as their baseline (Mazeland, Part I, this volume). Also, some activities are in principal open-ended, since different parts of them are recyclable. These often constituted the core of the over-arching activity (e.g., in guided visits, Mondada, this volume; or when clearing out a room, Gerhardt, this volume). In contrast, there are also activities where the attainment of one step projects moving on to the following (e.g., in care-taking when helping

someone dress, Mazeland, Prat I, this volume). More research is clearly needed in order to understand the different natures of embodied activities.

More generally, the range of case studies illustrates impressively that is still too early to draw a schematic taxonomy of the resources used in embodied activities. Specifically, some modalities, especially relating to the face, are completely understudied. While several papers (e.g., Gerhardt, this volume; Reber, this volume) point out the relevance of facial expressions, previous studies of their use in interaction are scarce.

As far as the database is concerned, perhaps most radically, the volume shows that all video data deployed for embodied analysis are mediated in that their constitution is intrinsically tied to the filming practices of the researcher. Crucially, the constitution of data through mobile eye-tracking glasses (Stukenbrock / Dao, this volume) but also the latest use of robots in the operating theatre (Bezemer et al., this volume) are examples for data sets which push the boundaries of what is treated as a “mediated setting”. In terms of operating theatres, the recent technical progress has meant that activities which would have been a prime example for face-to-face interaction only some decades ago, e.g. operations, have been transformed to interactions, where co-present participants interact based on a shared vision mediated by cameras. This calls for further research on the evolution of embodied activities from a historical perspective, a research gap, which needs to be addressed further.