

## GAL Research Workshop



## Methods for the analysis of multimodal interaction and embodiment



Freiburg im Breisgau  
October 22-23, 2018

**Keynote Speaker:** [Leelo Keevallik](#)

(U Linköping, <https://liu.se/en/employee/leeke00>)

**Discussant:** [Esther González-Martínez](#)

(U Fribourg, <https://www3.unifr.ch/socio/fr/esther-gonzalez-martinez.html>)

**Organization:** [Oliver Ehmer](#)

(U Freiburg, <http://www.romanistik.uni-freiburg.de/pfaender/zur-person1>)

& [Florence Oloff](#)

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### Topic

Within the last decades, research on social interaction has acknowledged that communication and discourse are accomplished not only through linguistic resources, but also through other audible and visual means. In co-present (and also in certain types of mediated) interactions, participants are more than speakers with disembodied voices, instead they are bodies acting within specific material and spatial settings (e.g. González-Martínez, Bangerter & Lê Van 2016, 2017, Streeck, Goodwin & LeBaron 2011). Since the pioneering work of C. Goodwin (e.g. 1979, 1981), qualitative approaches to language and social interaction - and especially multimodal conversation analysis (e.g. Mondada 2016) - have increasingly turned to the collection and analysis of video data; this *video turn* (e.g. Knoblauch et al. 2006) being also driven by the availability of better and cheaper digital video recording technologies. However, video recordings do not simply provide for the discovery of additional, visual phenomena, but represent a new empirical base that comes with a large number of methodological challenges. This GAL Research Workshop aims at taking up some of these currently discussed issues:

- **Grammar and embodiment:** While linguistics traditionally thinks of grammar as an abstract, independent system, one might wonder to which extent visible actions and body movements play a role for understanding grammar-in-use. What kind of evidence does video data provide for the grammar-body interface (Keevallik 2018), and what are the consequences for our understanding and modelling of grammar?
- **Transcribing the body in motion:** The complexity of video data imposes a thorough reflection on the selection of the phenomena to transcribe and the granularity of the transcription (Mondada 2018). Moreover, researchers have to think about analytically adequate and relevant descriptions for actions carried out with different parts of the body. How can we study and transcribe the body in motion, especially in settings with less or no language use (Keevallik 2015)?
- **Vocalisations:** While non-lexical vocalisations such as pain cries, strain grunts or coordinating vocalisations seem to be first and foremost related to specific physical actions, video data allow for the study of their connection to orderly social action (Keevallik 2014). Situated in the realm between body and language, the study of vocalisations might challenge traditional concepts of language and semantics.

Our keynote speaker **Leelo Keevallik**, professor at the University of Linköping, has extensively worked on embodied interaction in various settings of naturally occurring interactions, such as in dance or yoga classes. Specialised in interactional linguistics, she focuses, among others, on how participants coordinate grammar with the body. Our discussant **Esther González-Martínez**, professor at the University of Fribourg, has investigated social practices in institutional settings (e.g. courtrooms, hospitals, schools) and the articulation of body and talk from a sociological perspective.

### Organization

This GAL research workshop is specifically designed for **junior researchers** (master students, doctoral students, post-docs) working qualitatively on video recordings of different social and linguistic settings. In order to ensure an informal working atmosphere and intensive scientific exchanges, the maximum number of participants is restricted to 12.

The workshop will start on Monday 22 at 09:30 and end on Tuesday 23 around 17:30. Please see the preliminary program on page 3 for further details.

Apart from participating in the plenary lectures and workshops, the junior researchers will also have the opportunity to work in small groups on their individual research topics and questions. Under the senior researchers' guidance, they will focus either on a precise phenomenon or piece of data ("data session") or on a specific methodological or analytic problem ("presentation with discussion"). As a maximum number of six small work sessions has been foreseen, participants willing to present their research questions will be invited to provide a short abstract during registration, which will be assessed based on their scientific quality and relevance with regard to the workshop topics.

- **Registration:** Participants can register until September 30 (on a first-come, first-served basis) by filling out the following online form: <https://goo.gl/forms/gR8r1bzlf1vptpig1>  
*Waiting list:* In case that more than 12 participants register, we will have a waiting list. Registration for the waiting list is under the same link as above.
- **Participation fees:** 30€ (including coffee breaks and two days of workshop)  
*Nota bene:* Accommodation, travel, joint lunches and dinners on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 have to be paid by the participants.
- **Venue:** Liefmann-Haus, Goethestraße 33, 79100 Freiburg i. Br.
- **Language:** All lectures, workshops and discussions will be in English.

For more information please contact Florence Oloff: [Florence.Oloff@oulu.fi](mailto:Florence.Oloff@oulu.fi)

### Bibliographical references

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- Streeck, J. / Goodwin, C. / LeBaron, C. (eds.) (2011). *Embodied Interaction. Language and Body in the Material World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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*Preliminary Program*

**Monday, October 22, 2018**

09:30 - 10:00	Arrival & Registration (& Coffee)
10:00 - 10:30	Welcome & Introduction of participants
10:30 - 12:00	<b>Plenary 1 – Lecture &amp; Application</b> <i>Interactional linguistics:</i> <i>What can embodied interaction tell us about grammar?</i> LEELO KEEVALLIK
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:30	<b>Plenary 2 – Lecture &amp; Application</b> <i>Studying and transcribing the body in motion</i> LEELO KEEVALLIK
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:30	<b>2 parallel Data Sessions / Work Sessions with the participants</b> <b>Chair 1:</b> LEELO KEEVALLIK <b>Chair 2:</b> ESTHER GONZÁLEZ-MARTÍNEZ
from 19:30	Dinner

**Tuesday, October 23, 2018**

09:30 - 11:00	<b>Plenary 3 – Workshop</b> <i>Non-lexical vocalizations</i> LEELO KEEVALLIK
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:30	<b>Plenary 4 – Video Motion Analysis</b> <i>Motion tracking and motion visualization</i> DANIEL ALCÓN / STEFAN PFÄNDER
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	<b>2 parallel Data Sessions / Work Sessions with the participants</b> <b>Chair 1:</b> LEELO KEEVALLIK <b>Chair 2:</b> ESTHER GONZÁLEZ-MARTÍNEZ
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30	<b>2 parallel Data Sessions / Work Sessions with the participants</b> <b>Chair 1:</b> LEELO KEEVALLIK <b>Chair 2:</b> ESTHER GONZÁLEZ-MARTÍNEZ
from 19:00	<b>17:30 Goodbye &amp; Schluss</b> Dinner (for those staying)