

CALL FOR PAPERS

International workshop:
"Interaction, Artefacts and Situated Cognition"

November 5-6, 2004.
Bielefeld University (Germany)

- Confirmed Participants:
- Jörg Bergmann (Bielefeld, D)
 - Christian Greiffenhagen (Oxford, GB)
 - Lorenza Mondada (Lyon, F)

Submission deadline for abstracts is Friday, June 18, 2004.
The conference language is English.

Sponsored by
The Graduate Programme "Entering the Knowledge Society"
The Graduate Programme "Task Oriented Communication"
The International School in Sociology (IGSS)
Hosted by the Institute for Science and Technology Studies (IWT)
(all Bielefeld University)

We invite submissions for presentations from scholars who are doing research on the interrelation of interaction, artefacts and/or distributed cognition. The intention is to facilitate a dialogue between the diverse theoretical approaches - such as Conversation Analysis, Actor-Network-Theory, Distributed Cognition and Activity Theory - which deal with this subject. Above all, we would welcome contributions which are based on empirical research and/or recorded, naturally-occurring interaction. Speakers will have 30 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for discussion. Registration is free.

If you wish to give a presentation, please send an abstract (300 words) by e-mail to the conference organizers:
- Antonia Krummheuer: A.Krummheuer@uni-bielefeld.de
- Karola Pitsch: Karola.Pitsch@uni-bielefeld.de

Please see the conference webpage for updated information:
<http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/iwt/gk/workshop2004/iac.html>

If you have any inquiries, please contact the organizers.

***** Workshop Proposal *****

A great deal of the face-to-face interaction of human beings is lodged within complex settings or multimodal environments. In collaborative activities such as navigating an aeroplane, performing a medical operation or constructing knowledge in classroom or laboratory settings the participants not only make use of verbal language and their bodies as resources of communication, but at the same time, they also have to deal with material objects or technical artefacts for accomplishing the actual tasks at hand.

In recent years, these kinds of scenarios and collaborative activities have been the subject of a growing interest in different fields and approaches, each of them contributing specific research questions. Thus, within the framework of Ethnomethodology/Conversation Analysis, especially in the field of Workplace Studies (Heath, Goodwin & Goodwin, Suchman), research has focused on the ways in which tools and artefacts feature, moment by moment, in developing and collaborative courses of action and how the participants mutually constitute objects through their action and interaction. The Actor-Network-Theory approaches (Latour, Law), which have emerged from the science and laboratory studies, however, have developed a perspective which minimizes the theoretical differences between human and non-human actors and investigate the networks which they build up in concert with each other. And finally, research being undertaken in the field of Distributed

Cognition (Hutchins) focuses mainly on the interplay of artefacts and cognition within those situated interactions.

The workshop aims at discussing the question of the reflexive interrelationship of interaction, artefacts and situated cognition in an interdisciplinary framework and thereby facilitating a dialogue between these approaches and their different perspectives on comparable natural settings of interaction.

The questions which we would like to discuss are:

- How do human beings integrate and use artefacts in their activities?
- What is the impact of artefacts on interaction and situated cognition?
- How does the materiality of artefacts influence the situation and the interaction?
- How can we conceptualize interaction, when we focus on the reflexive interrelation between the human and non-human actors and the resources they bring into the situation?
- How does interaction change when technical artefacts themselves become active, as in interactive software programs?
- How can these different theoretical and methodological approaches inform each other?