

„Synaesthesia and Multisensoriality in Interaction“

24th – 25th Sep 2026,
Data Theatre, Raum ZT 1204,
at the University of Konstanz

Thursday 24.9.

10:15-10:30 Introduction

10:30-11:30 **“Synesthetic Interaction and Interactional Synesthesia: How the Senses Complement, Substitute, Elaborate, and Translate One Another in Interaction”**

Christian Meyer (University of Konstanz)

11:45-12:45 **“Multimodality, multisensoriality and synaesthesia in social interaction”**

Lorenza Mondada (University of Basel)

LUNCH 12:45-13:45

13:45-14:45 **“Learning to see through touch: The interactional accomplishment of synaesthetic perception in vine-pruning instruction”**

Giolo Fele (University of Trento)

15:00-16:00 **“Seeing troubles of hearing”**

Hanna Svensson (University of Gothenburg)

COFFEE 16:00-16:30

16:30-17:30 **“In Praise of My Transmodal Hands”**

Jürgen Streeck (University of Texas at Austin)

17:30-18:30 **“Co-perception and co-sensing of human subjects/objects”**

Asta Cekaite (Linköping University)

19h Formal dinner: providing an opportunity to discuss topics in greater detail in one-on-one conversations

Friday 25.9.

9:45-10:45 **“At the interface of sound and touch”**

Leelo Keevalik (University of Linköping)

11:00-12:00 **“Senses of Correction: Comparing Correction Practices in Movement”**

Robert Mitchell (University of Mainz)

- 12:00-13:15 Lunch
- 13:15-14:15 **“Kinaesthetic Sensing in Dance: Embodying the Percept of Others and Achieving Intercorporeality”**
 Chiara Bassetti (University of Trento)
- 14:30-15:30 Joint closing discussion
 Chair: Clemens Eisenmann (University of Konstanz/Siegen)

organized by Clemens Eisenmann, Christian Meyer, and Lorenza Mondada
 within the project P01/SFB-1187 (University of Siegen)

Registration/Contact:

All are welcome, please send a short e-mail until 22.09. to: clemens.eisenmann@uni-konstanz.de

Abstract:

Sensoriality in social interaction has been a topic raising increasing interest in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis (EMCA) these last years (Fele 2019, Goodwin, MH 2017, Liberman 2022, Meyer & Meier 2016, Meyer 2021, Mondada 2018, 2021, Mondada & Cekaite 2020), expanding previous work on multimodality (Goodwin, C 2018, Mondada 2019) and inspired by insights coming from, amongst others, Scottish moral philosophy, early Simmelian insights, phenomenology, and the anthropology of the senses. The issue has been to put multisensoriality on the agenda of interaction studies, with a special focus on how sensorial and perceptual practices relating to, and establishing, the world and others are publicly and recognizably achieved and shared in social interaction.

Building on this background, this workshop further discusses multisensoriality in social interaction, and in particular the potentials and prospects of the concept of *synaesthesia* for interaction research. Here, synaesthesia is not understood as a clinical or psychological condition, but as an everyday practical phenomenon—inspired by its phenomenological sense developed, among others, by Merleau-Ponty and Sartre. On this view, our experience of the world already involves constant cross-sensory supplementation and translation—for example, visual experience is routinely complemented by, and intertwined with, other sensory familiarities. Sartre famously stated that we ‘see’ the sourness of a lemon: “each of its qualities is extended throughout each of the others. It is the sourness of the lemon which is yellow, it is the yellow of the lemon which is sour. We eat the color of a cake, and the taste of this cake is the instrument which reveals its shape and its color to what we may call the alimentary intuition.” Merleau-Ponty similarly describes glass: we see its “hardness and brittleness (...), and when, with a tinkling sound, it breaks, this sound is conveyed

by the visible glass.” The issue is for us to reflect about these insights within an interactional framework and on the basis of video analysis, within the epistemology and methodology of EMCA.

While we do not doubt the ongoing cross-sensorial supplementation and translation during perception, it is the generality of such descriptions that we would like to examine and discuss in the workshop. E.g., when do they apply in general, and when are perceptions only manifested through specific senses, and not others, or are not at all cross-sensorial, according to the particularities of the interactional situation and activity? How are sensory experiences and synaesthesias made accountable and sequentially fed into interaction? So far, the complementarity, substitutability, translatability, and mutual elaboration of sensory modes has mainly been discussed in studies of the individual perceptor. In this workshop, we will discuss empirical studies showing how participants ongoingly accomplish and also presuppose this phenomenon for their co-participants, as part of the assumed „objectivity of the world“, and use it in interaction—both in (1) interactionally achieved co-perception and co-sensing of relevant objects and in (2) co-bodily (including intercorporeal) interaction, where participants make their sensory perceptions, orientations and access accountable to one another up to and including having co-experiences.