

Dear LSI friends and colleagues:

Hello from the Language and Social Interaction Division (LSI). I hope that all of you had a good holiday break and a good start to the new year. Here in Macau, we are looking forward to the 'Year of the Rabbit' as we bid the difficult 'Year of the Tiger' a not so fond farewell!

By now you should have received notices from ICA regarding your conference submissions. We had many excellent submissions to LSI this year, and unfortunately, not many sessions allotted to us. This meant that there were more rejections than I would like. I hope that those whose submissions were accepted make plans to visit Toronto (or attend remotely), and those not accepted, consider attending the Pre-Conference and/or other activities planned for Toronto. Also, it is not too early to think about attending ICA next year which is scheduled for Gold Coast, Australia.

In the following are announcements regarding these matters:

1. LSI and Intercultural Communication Division (ICCD) co-sponsored Pre-Conference
2. Obituary for Janet Beavin Bavelas by Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz and Robert Arundale
3. New Open Access Book: Erving Goffman's 1953 Dissertation

1. Pre-Conference: New Methods for Analyzing Digital Data across Cultures and Contexts

The LSI & ICCD Co-Sponsored Pre-Conference will be held on Wednesday, 24 May, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. (<https://www.icahdq.org/mpage/ICA23-NewMethods>)
It features presentations of digital data by the following scholars:

Chaim Chaimke Noy, Bar-Ilan University & Sarit Navon, Tel Aviv University
Saskia Witteborn, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Rahul, Sambaraju, University of Edinburgh
Earvin Charles B. Cabalquinto, Deakin University
Andrea Medrado, University of Westminster

In addition, there will be an Open data session led by Natasha Shrikant & Kristella Montiegel, University of Colorado, Boulder.

The event will be moderated by Todd Sandel (LSI), University of Macau and Amanda Alencar (ICCD), Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Description:

The goal of this full-day pre-Conference is to explore methods and approaches for studying digital media from inter-, intra- and cross-cultural micro-communication perspectives. As a co-sponsored event, this will reflect each division's respective interests in language and social interaction and intercultural and international contexts. That is, we are interested in exploring how new forms of digital data (e.g., digital cultures, experiences, and interactions), as seen on various platforms, can be studied using existing and/or new methodologies. The event will be conducted in the form of workshops led by invited scholars who lead sessions to show how to analyze data. We will also provide a session for participants to share the data that they are working with, to demonstrate their methods and/or ask questions.

If you are interested in presenting during the open session, contact me: (tisandel@um.edu.mo) Keep in mind that our time is limited, therefore, contact me early. Finally, a limited number of registration waivers are available to students and early careers upon request.

2. Obituary for Janet Beavin Bavelas who passed away on December 12, 2022

Submitted by Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz

Janet Beavin Bavelas (1940-2022) passed away on December 12, 2022. I first read her work in the 1970s (*Pragmatics of human communication*, written with Paul Watzlawick and Don Jackson, and published in 1967), a book much discussed when I was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, as it was elsewhere. We met in person through ICA conferences in the 1980s. Later I organized a panel for LSI that included her (in 1993) and edited a book for which she wrote a chapter (*Social approaches to communication*, 1995). After that, she helpfully responded in great detail to the draft of my introduction to a different book (*The Social History of Language and Social Interaction Research*, 2010) using her firsthand knowledge of many of the people and projects discussed. When I chaired the LSI division in 1997, we gave her the Outstanding Scholar award, which gave everyone a chance to tell her how much we appreciated her work. Her specialization was microanalysis of face-to-face dialogue in both the experimental lab and applied settings, and her work substantially influenced scholars who study interaction, gesture, or multimodality.

For those who did not have the privilege of knowing her, a brief summary of her career may be helpful. Jan Bavelas earned a BA in Psychology, an MA in Communication, and a PhD in Psychology, all from Stanford University. She worked as a research assistant, then research associate, at Mental Research Institute from 1961-70, during her MA and PHD studies, where she co-authored *Pragmatics of human communication*, as mentioned earlier. She accepted a position in psychology at the University of Victoria in Canada in 1970, where she rose from Assistant Professor to Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, and later Associate Dean of Research. She formally retired as Professor Emeritus in 2005, but never stopped conducting research, often through the research group she helped found, International Microanalysis Associates, and still actively publishing (her last book came out earlier this year, *Face-to-face dialogue: Theory, research, and applications*).

She received many awards; those most relevant to ICA included being elected as Fellow of ICA in 1993 and serving as Member-at-Large for the Board of Directors of ICA, 1994-97. She was also elected Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association (1980) and the Royal Society of Canada (1995) and served a term as President of the International Society for Gesture Studies (2005). She received dozens of major research grants, many from the Canada Council or the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. She served on the editorial boards of multiple journals, including many ICA members use and will recognize: *Communication Theory*; *Human Communication Research*; *Research on*

Language and Social Interaction; Communication Monographs; Text; Journal of Language and Social Psychology; Family Process; and Gesture.

Jan was particularly proud of her work on calibration sequences showing that the most fundamental unit interlocutors participated in for displaying mutual understanding required three steps, not two (like adjacency pairs). It is the culmination of many facets of her research program (not ignoring what you don't understand yet, incorporating co-speech hand and facial gestures into analysis, attending to the most micro-contingencies).

She was always a forward-looking researcher, meaning she was always most passionate about whatever she was currently working on and what was on the horizon. Those of us at ICA often remember her best as one of the authors of *Pragmatics*, but she considered only how her past work might be useful in whatever she was currently studying. She was an intensely curious person and following up on that curiosity was always more important to her than dwelling on the past.

Submitted by Robert B. Arundale

Robert B. Arundale, rbarundale@alaska.edu

The disciplines of communication and of social psychology lost a very important scholar with the passing of Janet Beavin Bavelas on December 12, 2022. Most will be aware of her as the second author of Watzlawick, Beavin, and Jackson, *The Pragmatics of Human Communication*, which I encountered not long after it was published in 1967. One of my comprehensive questions was to write a critique of the book, which was a challenge because I agreed fully with its premise that human communication needed to be understood as a systemic phenomenon, using the concepts of general systems theory. I believe it safe to say that *Pragmatics* had a much greater impact on scholarship in the discipline of communication than it had on Jan's home discipline of social psychology. Today we see one echo of *Pragmatics* as some theorizing in communication grapples with the implications of complex systems theory. Breaking her customary reserve in talking about her many contributions to scholarship in both disciplines, Jan once confided that while the conceptualizations were a joint effort of the three authors, the major part of the actual writing of *Pragmatics* was her work as a young scholar. The December 14, 2022, obituary by Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz (COMMNotes Obituaries #1109) provides a valuable overview of the broad scope of Jan's background, research, and publications.

I first met Jan at a communication conference in the 1970s, and was fortunate to continue interacting with her until just before her passing. From the beginning of our acquaintance I was aware of not only of her strong sense that researchers studying language and social interaction in communication and in social psychology had much to offer each other, but also of her frustration that scholars in neither discipline seemed inclined to recognize that mutual benefit. Her 2005 chapter "The Two Solitudes" in Fitch and Sander's *Handbook of Language and Social Interaction* is a careful analysis of what has kept the two perspectives isolated from one another, and of how unnecessary that mutual isolation is, from the point of view of a researcher whose contributions in each field were at times questioned by researchers in the other field. Undaunted by such responses, she devoted her whole career to working across that gap, providing pioneering, empirically based insights into nonverbal behavior and

everyday language use. Her 2022 volume, *Face to Face Dialogue*, shares the broad frame of reference of the 1967 *Pragmatics*, although the five-decade research program upon which she draws in arguing for the uniqueness of face-to-face dialogue has raised questions about some of its original axioms. As she characterized the volume in a conversation several years ago, it is in many respects “Pragmatics 2.”

Throughout her career Jan remained the epitome of a scholar who acknowledges the value in the divergent perspectives of other researchers, asking only that the same acknowledgement be granted in return. Unlike many in academia, she always worked actively to share her expertise with, and to learn from, practitioners in disciplines like psychotherapy in which face-to-face dialogue is central to effective practice. A welcoming and gracious host, Jan delighted in introducing everyone to her beloved Newfoundlands, and to this little known breed. And as an educator she attracted and mentored a cadre of bright, capable graduate students, including them as team members in her research program, demanding from them their best work, and receiving it in return with their high regard. Those students have dispersed to other countries as researchers and educators, passing on Jan’s unique and remarkable legacy as a person and as a scholar.

3. [New Open Access Book: Erving Goffman’s 1953 Dissertation](#)

Subject: New Open Access Book: Erving Goffman’s 1953 dissertation, *Communication Conduct in an Island Community*

[Mediastudies.press](#) is a scholar-led, nonprofit, no-fee open access publisher in the media, film, and communication studies fields. We are excited to announce the publication of Erving Goffman’s remarkable 1953 dissertation, *Communication Conduct in an Island Community*.

Canadian-born Erving Goffman (1922–1982) was the twentieth century’s most important sociologist writing in English. His 1953 [dissertation](#) is published here for the first time, on the hundredth anniversary of his birth. The study, based on fieldwork on a remote Scottish island, presents in embryonic form the full spread of Goffman’s thought. Framed as a “report on a study of conversational interaction,” the dissertation lingers on the modest talk of island “crofters.” It is trademark Goffman: ambitious, unconventional in form, and brimmed with big-picture insight. The thesis is that social order is made and re-made in communication—the “interaction order” he revisited in a famous and final talk before his 1982 death. The dissertation is, as Yves Winkin writes in a [new introduction](#), the “Rosetta stone for his entire work.” It was here, in 360 dense pages, that Goffman revealed, quietly, his peerless sensitivity to the invisible wireframes of everyday life.

The book is available [online](#), and as a free download in [PDF](#) and [ePub](#). A [paperback version](#) is also [available](#). (Feel free to contact me or Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz, wendy.leeds.hurwitz@gmail.com, if these links do not work as they are sent through this email.)

Communication Conduct in an Island Community appears in the [Public Domain series](#). Scholars interested in proposing volumes in this or other series are encouraged to reach out with a [query](#). You can learn more about [mediastudies.press](#), including our [operations](#) and OA principles, on our [site](#). The press is a member of the [Open Book Collective](#) and the [ScholarLed consortium](#), and also publishes the *History of Media Studies* journal. Please contact us at press@mediastudies.press.

SUBMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS!

If you have announcements about publications, promotions, awards, positions and conferences that you want to share, please send them to our LSI Secretary **Menno Reijven** at m.h.reijven@uva.nl. We'll make sure to include them in the next newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you,

LSI Leadership Team – Gonen, Todd, Menno, Frédéric, Kellie, and Mai
