

# **Sociology 716: Seminar in Medical Sociology**

**Britt Robillard**  
**Thursday 3:00 – 5:30pm**  
**Saunders 233**  
**(808) 956-4701**  
**[britt@hawaii.edu](mailto:britt@hawaii.edu)**

**There are no prerequisites to this seminar. I will give overrides to anyone who is interested. To give an override code, I need your student ID number.**

**This seminar will focus on doctor/patient conversations and how this interaction is the basis for diagnosis and treatment. We will be inspecting transcripts of actual diagnostic and treatment conversations in psychiatry and medicine. We will collaboratively develop analytical skills for recognizing and describing the unique structure of doctor/patient conversation. We will deal with a lot of dis-preferred information and how patients deal with it.**

**Jan 14: Introduction of conversation analysis and introduction of students and teacher. Schegloff's version of conversation analysis and alternative versions of conversation analysis. Assignment: Read Schegloff's Chapter 1 and 2.**

**Jan 21: Introduction of John Heritage and his work on the diagnostic interview. Presentation of Chapter 1 & 2. Discuss of Heritage and his articles on doctor/patient interaction. Assignment: Read and present "Introduction: Analyzing interaction between doctors and patients in primary care encounters"**

**John Heritage and Douglas W. Maynard, 2006.**

**Jan 28: Presentation of the Heritage and Maynard article. Assignment: Read and present "Taking the history: questioning during comprehensive history-taking" by Elizabeth Boyd and John Heritage. And "Body work: the collaborative production of the clinical object" by Christian Heath. Read and present Chapters 3 & 4 in Schegloff.**

**Feb 4: Harold Garfinkel's radical idea of collaborative production of persons and objects. Sexuality and the study of Agnes. Good clinical reasons for bad records. The Ohio jury studies. Assignment: Read Chapter 5 & 6 in Schegloff and read "Questioning in Medicine" by John Heritage and "Preemptive resistance: Patients' participation in diagnostic sense-making activities" by Anita Pomerantz, 2008.**

**Feb 11: Presentation of chapters 5 & 6 and Heritage and Pomerantz. Read "Analyzing psychotherapy in practice" by Anssi Perakyla, Charles Antaki, Sanna Vehvilainen, and Ivan Leudar, 2008. Read Schegloff Chapters 7, 8 & 9. A little bit on the sequential organization of doctor/patient interaction. The situation emergence of a self who can report on itself.**

**Feb 18: Presentations on Perakyla et al and Schegloff chapters 7, 8 & 9. Discussion of the institutional self and how it can talk about itself. Read Schegloff chapters 10 & 11.**

**Feb 25: Presentations on Schegloff chapters 10 & 11. Read "Accounting for the visit: giving reasons for seeking medical care" by John Heritage and Jeffrey**

**Robinson, 2006. Read Schegloff Chapter 12 & 13. Self reports and complaints to the doctor.**

**March 4: Read "Explaining illness: patients' proposals and physicians' responses" by Virginia Teas Vill and Douglas W. Maynard, 2006. Presentations of Heritage and Robinson and Schegloff chapters 12 & 13. We are pau with Schegloff. The problem of interpreting what patients say.**

**March 11: Read "On diagnostic rationality: bad news, good news, and they symptom residue" by Douglas Maynard and Richard Frankel, 2006. Read "Prescriptions and prescribing: coordinating talk and text based activities" by David Greatbatch, 2006. Talk and action.**

**March 18: Presentation of Maynard and Frankel and Greatbatch. Read "Coordinating closings in primary care visits: Producing continuity of care" by Candace West, 2006.**

**March 25: Spring Break**

**April 1: Presentation of West. A summary of what we have learned so far.**

**April 8: Handing out the transcriptions of doctor/patient interactions and students analyzing the transcripts.**

**April 15: Student presentations of their analysis of doctor/patient interaction.**

**April 22: Student presentations of their analysis of doctor/patient interaction.**

**April 29: Class party and course evaluation.**