

Multimodal Conduct in the Legal Order

Speakers: Gregory Matoesian (University of Illinois at Chicago) and Kristin Enola Gilbert

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Abstract

Researchers in language and law or what is now referred to as forensic linguistics rarely, if ever, mention the role of multimodal conduct in legal settings such as trials, plea bargains, police training evaluations and so on. By the same token, despite the proliferation of gesture studies over the past several decades researchers rarely, if ever, mention their role in the legal institution. Our work demonstrates in concrete detail the role of multimodal conduct in the law, and how both gesture studies and forensic linguistics may benefit by looking at multimodal conduct in legal settings. Our talk will cover our recent publication from Cambridge University Press, *Multimodal Conduct in the Law*, as well as the even more recent *Multimodal Performance and Interaction in Focus Groups* (John Benjamins) and our work in progress tentatively titled (in honor of Michael Silverstein) “Practicing Linguistics (and Embodied Conduct) Without a License: Multimodal Oratory in Legal Ritual.”

Bios

Gregory Matoesian is a Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is author of *Reproducing Rape: Domination through Talk in the Courtroom* (1993, University of Chicago Press), *Law and the Language of Identity* (2001, Oxford University Press), co-editor (with Elizabeth Mertz and William Ford) of *Translating the Social World for Law* (2016, Oxford University Press), co-author (with Kristin Gilbert) of *Multimodal Conduct in the Law: Language, Gesture and Materiality in Legal Interaction* (2018, Cambridge University Press) and co-author (with Kristin Gilbert) of *Multimodal Performance and Interaction in Focus Groups* (2021, John Benjamins).

Kristin Enola Gilbert received her Ph.D. from the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her current work focuses on language and multimodal conduct in focus group evaluations of community policing training. She is co-author (with Gregory Matoesian) of *Multimodal Conduct in the Law* (2018, Cambridge University Press), co-author (with Gregory Matoesian) of *Multimodal Performance and Interaction in Focus Groups* (2021, John Benjamins) and has published peer-reviewed articles in *Gesture, Multimodal Communication, Narrative Inquiry*, and *Discourse and Communication*.