

International Society for Gesture Studies - Hong Kong Online Seminar Series

Monday November 30, 2020 (4-5pm, local time HK)

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GESTURE IN COLLABORATIVE LEARNING: A MULTIMODAL CORPUS STUDY OF LANGUAGE-RELATED EPISODES

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Simon Harrison is assistant professor in the Department of English at City University of Hong Kong. He studies gesture in different social and professional interactions with embodied approaches to language. He is author of *The Impulse to Gesture* (2018) and *Chinese Urban Shi-nema* (with David H. Fleming, 2020).

Levi Stutzman is a research assistant at City University of Hong Kong with interests in gesture, language acquisition, and language processing. He holds a Master in Cognitive Neuroscience of Language from the Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, and an MA in Applied Linguistics from the University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

ABSTRACT

This presentation will delve into the group dynamics that arise when students learning or using English encounter a communication problem. On our way in to these situations, we borrow the notion of 'language-related episodes' from second language acquisition research as moments where the topic of conversation turns to the communication problem itself. While such research has typically treated 'language' very narrowly (as pronunciation, lexis, and grammar), we detour their term to show examples of groups becoming absorbed by 'gesture-related episodes' and 'inscription-related episodes'. As we develop a more embodied, world-involving view of these moments – showing their negotiation to be multimodal, distributed and dynamic – we discuss how breakdown repair and gesture are being modelled in other lines of research as separate (e.g. in language testing and assessment). The enactive concept of 'participatory sense-making' helps to highlight where our understanding of group interaction differs.

This is a joint seminar in collaboration with:
Department of English, City University of Hong Kong

DATE

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TIME

4PM – 5PM Hong Kong Time

ZOOM LINK

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