

Speaker Transitions and the Interactional Space: a multimodal CA analysis on university student meetings

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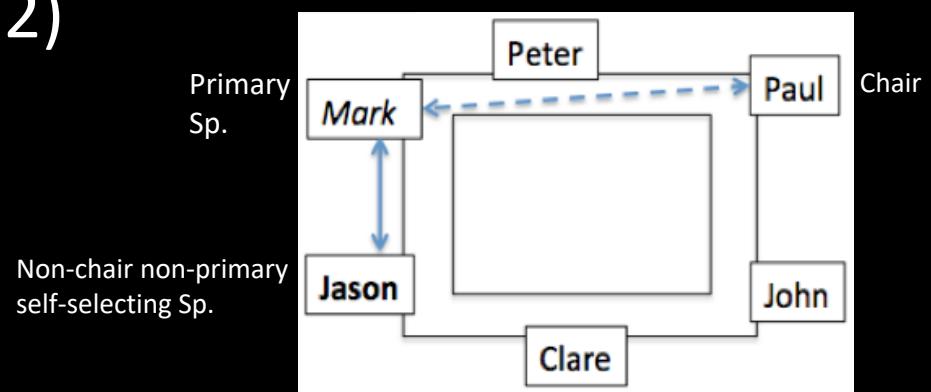
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The Study

- Undergraduate students in naval architecture
- Group meetings
- Roundtable update discussion: meeting chair appoints primary speakers to give an update
- ‘Extra interactional work’ when a non-chair, non-primary participant self-selects (e.g., C. E. Ford & Stickle, 2012)

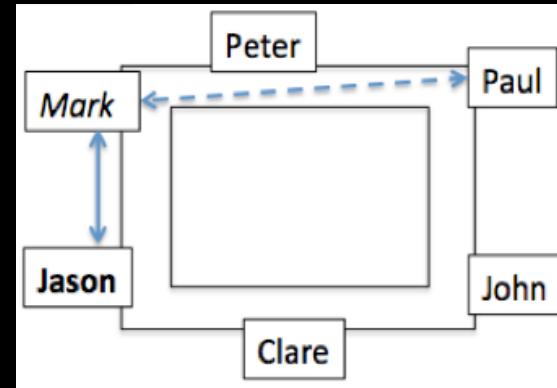
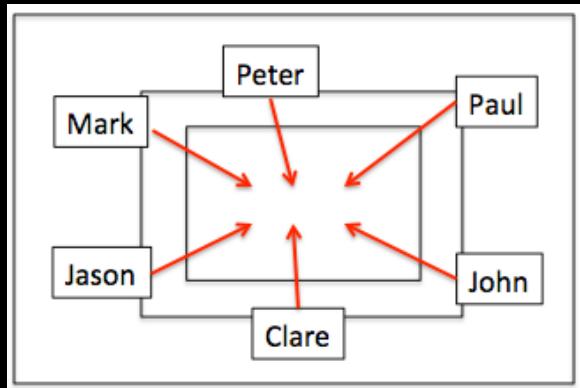


Turn-taking & Speaker transition through 'next speaker self-selects'

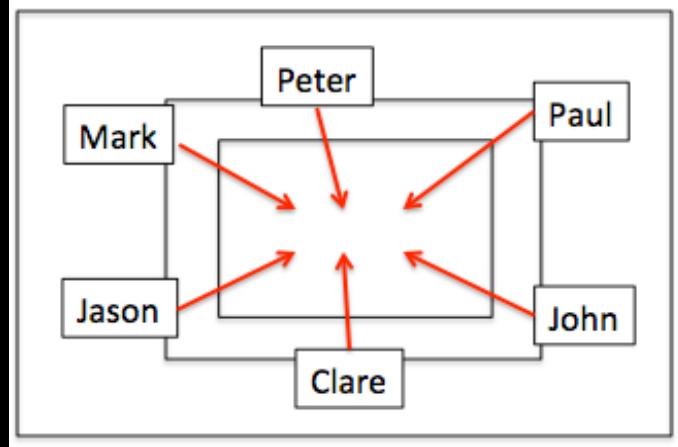
- Establish/negotiate speakership and secure/re-gain recipiency at...
 - Pre-turn
 - Turn-beginning
 - Turn extension/sequence expansion
(see, for example, Fasel Lauzon & Pochon-Berger, 2015; Mortensen, 2008)
- Progressive: attentive/active recipient, possible next speaker, incipient speaker, current speaker (Mondada 2007, Ford & Stickle 2012).
- Verbal/vocal, bodily-visual displays as resources

The human body & Interactional space

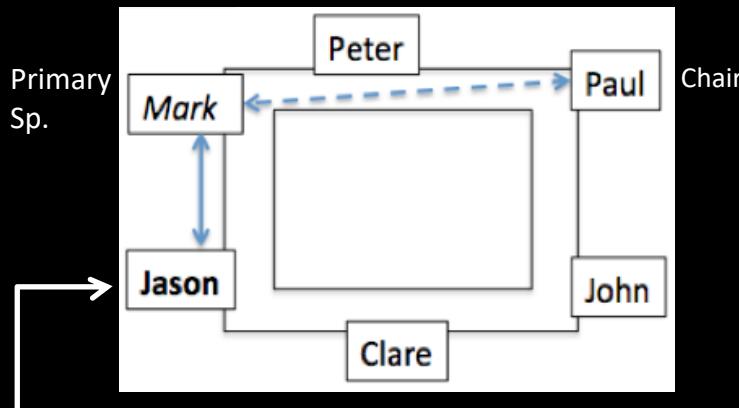
- In multiparty meetings where all participants are seated in a circle, to gather collective attention requires everyone to face the centre in their ‘home position’ (Sacks & Schegloff, 2002), creating a ‘common/shared interactional space’ (Mondada, 2009, 2012) amongst all.
- Any ‘torqued body’ (Schegloff, 1998) facing a particular participant would thus break the common space, creating a *subordinate involvement* amongst selected parties.



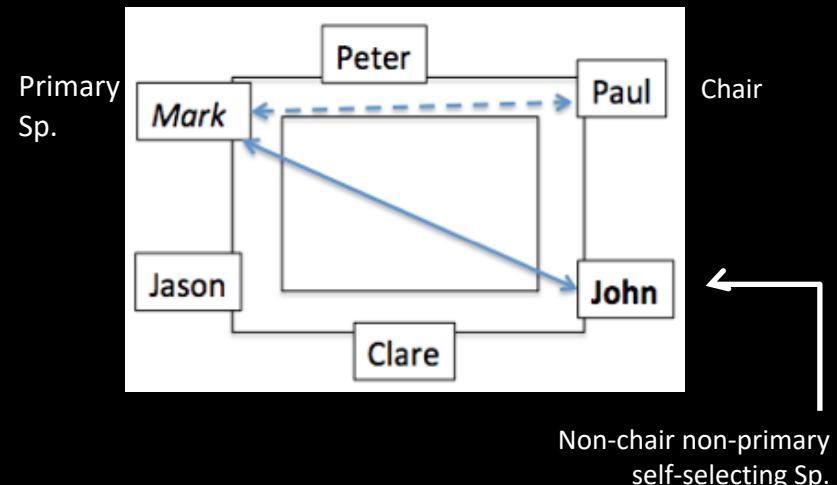
Side-to-side vs. face-to-face



Case 1: side-to-side



Case 2: face-to-face



Jason's self-selection:
Pre-turn →

Absence of Mark's reciprocity

Jason orients to the group/front

Turn-beginning
(1st TCU) →

Turn-expansion
Increment 1 →
Increment 2
Increment 3

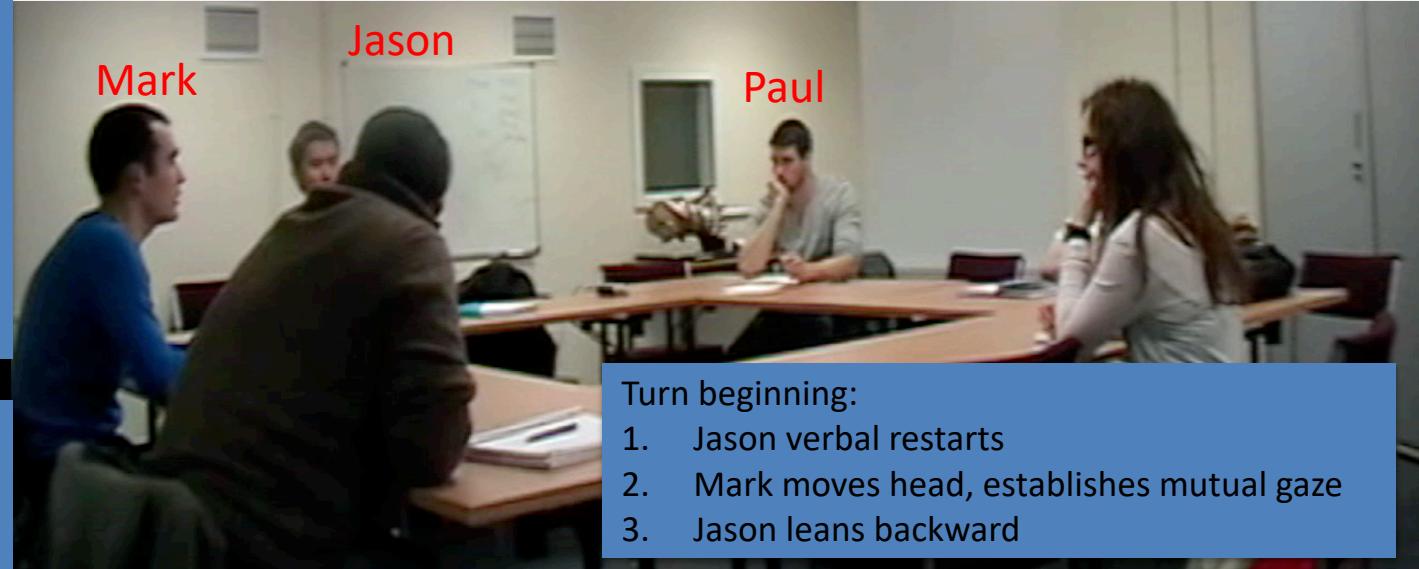
Case 1: side-to-side

29 PAU: =yea:h >are you gonna be talking< abou:t like the supply:
30 chai:n [° as well°]
31 MAR: [>That's what I'm] THINKING of< YEAH cos you you've got
32 to allow >for that I think <
33 PAU: (0.3) yeah=≈
34 MAR: =that's a huge (.) ° part of the cost yeah° ≈
35 JAS: =° uh°
36 (0.7)
37 PAU: ° um that'll be good° ≈
38 JAS: o- OBVIOUSly to do the cost benefit analysis you need more
39 details: as we said
40 MAR: (.) ye[ah]
41 JAS: [towar]ds uh: hh (0.4) wha- HOW long benefit analysis you
42 nee:d≈ ·hh (.) for us to give you the final detailed desi:gn≈
43 (.) so you can do: the wor:k before (.) due time
44 MAR: =wh- ↑WHAT I'd like to do it set it all up≈
45 (0.6)

Pre-turn - Jason:

1. nodding, upper body re-positioning, leaning forward, gaze shifts --- possible next speaker;
2. vocalisation at L35 --- incipient speaker

1st TCU and increments:
Jason's dual-orientation vs. Mark's display of reciprocity

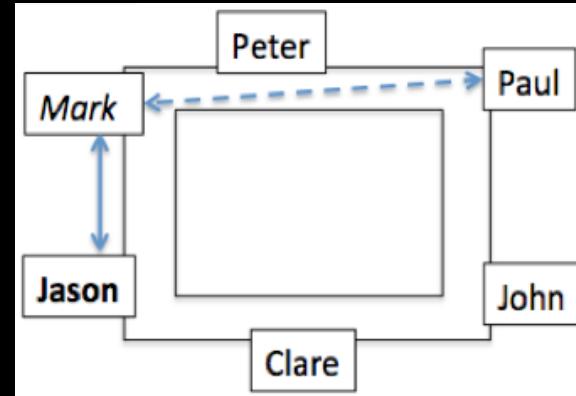
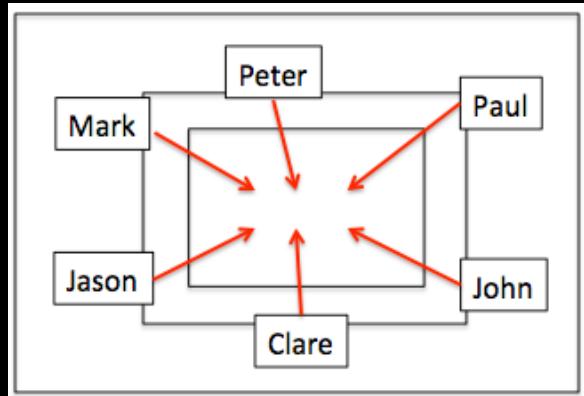


Turn beginning:

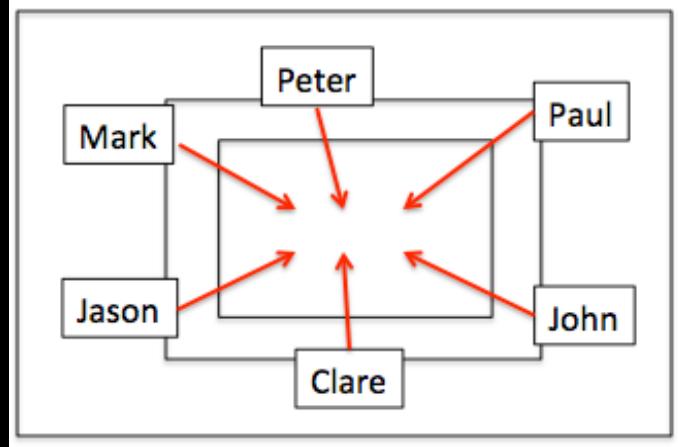
1. Jason verbal restarts
2. Mark moves head, establishes mutual gaze
3. Jason leans backward

Discussion: case 1 side-to-side

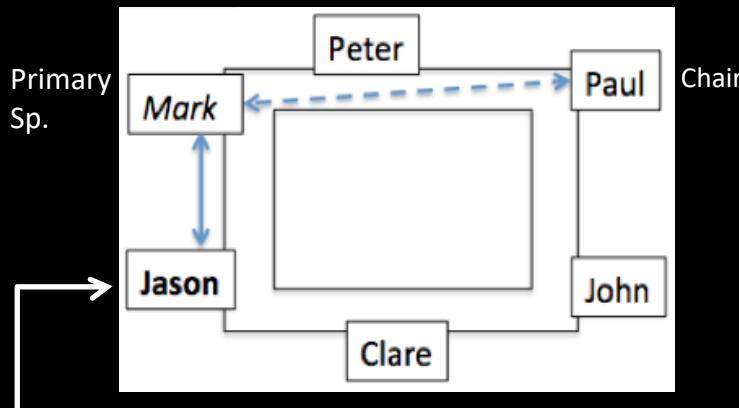
- Different seating arrangements, participant roles, sequential environments...all afford/avail varied resources for the co-construction and negotiation of 'shared interactional space'.
- Mark: torqued body/gaze --- home position
 - To display recipiency to, and sustain mutual orientation with Jason
 - To withdraw recipiency and gain speakership from Jason
- Jason: torqued body/gaze --- home position
 - To gain recipiency from, and sustain mutual orientation with Mark
 - To gain recipiency from other co-participants, esp. at absence of Mark's recipiency display



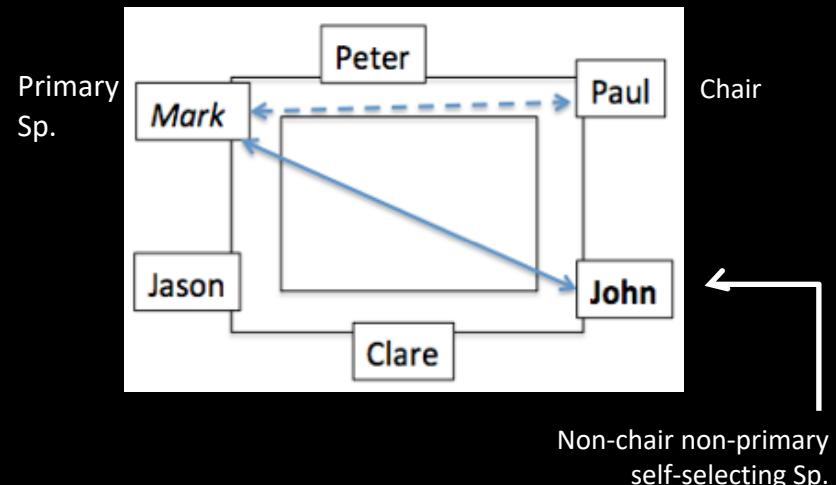
Side-to-side vs. face-to-face



Case 1: side-to-side



Case 2: face-to-face



Case 2: face-to-face Part 1

20 PAU: yeah [° that's good °]
21 MAR: [>that's what I'd<] like to do
22 (1.2)
23 PAU: hhhh
24 JOH: are you looking at the cost of the project too?¶
25 MAR: (0.4) YEAH I mean I'd LI:KE to (.) I mean >tha-I think
26 that's gonna be difficult< to predict¶
27 JOH: (0.2) yeah¶
28 (0.5)
29 JOH: [·hh] [° bu-°]
30 MAR: [because] >obviously [we don't] know< ho:w (.)
31 [difficult] it would be to (.) manufacture=¶
32 JOH: [° su-°]
33 MAR: =° tha-kind-of-[thing]°
34 JOH: [su:]re but in ter:ms o:f (.) um: >obviously
35 once we got< a final design you can estimate steelwork=¶
36 MAR: =° yeah ° =
37 JAS: =° yeah ° =

John's self-selection: 1st → Turn

Overlaps, delays →

Sequence expansion →



Sequence expansion:

Mark's 1st attempt to gain speakership →

Mark's 2nd attempt →



Case 2: face-to-face Part 2

38 JOH: =uh: all the generator and electronic stuff I imagine those
39 prices are available]
40 MAR: [yeah] that's what I- [I deal] in= [uh]
41 JOH:
42 MAR: =° actually ye[ah]°
43 JOH: [AN]D-IF EVEN if it's not an EXA:CT figure
44 (0.4) a ballpark figure is definitely (0.6)
45 MAR: [yeah] [i- if-]
46 JOH: [wor:thy] [Δcos other]wiseΔ there's NO: point
47 >us doing the project< when the whole: (0.6) ba:sis
48 was to redu:ce the ov[erall] cost] [yeah]
49 MAR:
50 JOH: (0.2) >and we then find out< it's actually more expensive
51 (.) to do this and attach it to wind farmer =
52 MAR: =ye[ah]]
53 JOH: [then] it is just to do it [° it's what is°]
54 PAU: [well↑ that's the] whole
55 point [of the] project=
56 MAR: [yeah]
55 PAU: =[isn't it] we want] actuall:y
56 MAR: [cos we've-yeah]
57 (0.3)

Mark

Paul

John

Mark:

- verbal
- Upper torso leaning back/forward
- Mouth open/close

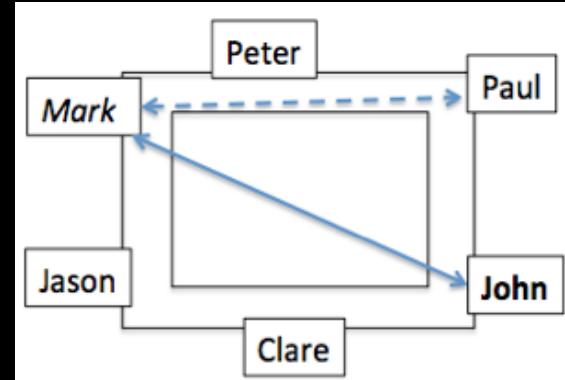
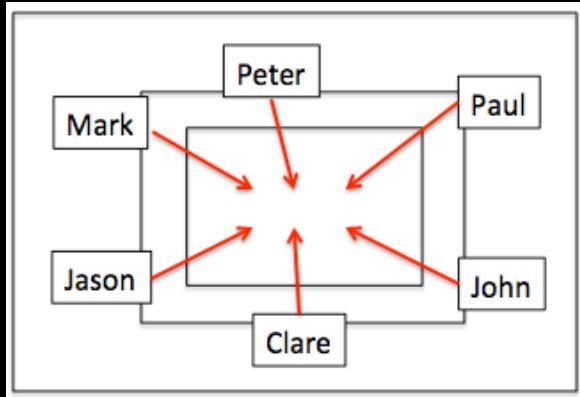
John:

- Verbal
- gesture



Discussion: case 2 face-to-face

- This seating position affords the two speakers more accessibility to a sustained mutual gaze; twists of upper torso (body torque) became unavailable for displays of (dis)engagement.
- A sustained forward-leaning position – a stable, shared interactional space for mutual orientation
- Starting to lean backward – brings a change of participation framework, creates instability of shared interactional space
- The body as a resource to display various levels of engagement.



Further Discussion

- How multimodal resources can be mobilised by participants to contextualise turn-taking practices amongst multi-parties.
- Participants have the competence to mobilise different multimodal resources made available by different seating positions during their talk-in-interaction --- even in more static, seated arrangement like this.
- A hierarchical order of gaze, upper body, gesture in the deployment of such resources – a level of systematicity.
 - e.g., gaze --- visual access in-between incipient and current speakers is a pre-requisite for speaker transition, also a public resource that can be exploited and mobilised to contextualise the operation of turn-taking.;
 - The body --- various levels of engagement.
- A rethinking of ‘home position’ --- provisional? Intermediate? (Cibulka 2014).

Selected Reference

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