



LA-EDS Research Group Meeting - Monday 21 May

Multimodal Event Analysis in a Cognitive Ethnography of In Vivo Students' Learning

Presented by Associate Professor Dr Mark E. King and Professor Paul J. Thibault

Monday 21 May 2018 from 3pm - 5pm.

Learning is a practical engagement with other persons and artefacts in fields of practical activity rather than changes in the 'inner' mind. The focus in understanding how learning takes place needs to be on how persons participate in the everyday practices of the field. Learners learn by moving around in, literally and figuratively, the learning domain, both spatially and temporally. We need to develop a science of learning that focuses on how concrete persons know and learn while participating in activities and practices required by society. To do this, we need a distinct cognitive ethnography that follows students through the activities, places and situations in which learning takes place. The kinds of changes that underpin learning depend on what learners are oriented to, what they do, and what values they are seeking to realise rather than on purported 'inner' mental mechanisms. Using video recording, participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and Multimodal Event Analysis (Thibault & King, 2015), we seek to follow students along their learning trajectories and their participation in learning activities in order to observe and document qualitative changes, the markers of learning in specific episodes, how relevant experiences in and out of University reconfigure student learning, how cumulative-quantitative changes lead to transformative-qualitative changes, and which resources and environments help to bring about these changes. The talk will discuss some concrete examples in relation to the issues referred to above.

Presenters

Associate Professor Dr Mark E. King





Mark E. King is Associate Professor and Director of Educational Delivery Services

in the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education Portfolio at UNSW Sydney. He is the author of the \$77M Inspired Learning Initiative (ILI). The ILI is an initial five year investment in a complex programme of work incorporating nine interconnected project streams to enhance student learning experiences and educational outcomes. Mark's portfolio of 70+ staff support all educational functions including educational intelligence & analytics, design and development, and technology; and works in Partnership with the university community to implement the Scientia Education Experience and the UNSW 2025 strategy for a sustained competitive advantage. Mark trained as a psychologist and cognitive ethnographer, and works and publishes in the areas of human cognition and learning within distributed cognitive systems. With Professor Paul Thibault, he is developing an eye-tracking methodology for investigating the co-synchronisation of language behaviour and visual perception in learning events. During previous appointments at The University of Hong Kong and The University of Melbourne, respectively, Mark pioneered the RASE learning design model that is now core to the Integrated Curriculum Framework at UNSW Sydney.



Paul J. Thibault is Professor in linguistics and communication studies at the

University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway and Hans Christian Andersen Academy Visiting Professor at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense. He has held academic posts in Australia, China, Italy, and Hong Kong. His research interests and many publications are in the areas of applied and general linguistics, development, distributed language and cognition, human-animal interaction, human interactivity, learning, multimodality, narrative, social theory, learning theory and teaching and learning in higher education, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, systemic-functional linguistics. With Mark King, he is working on learning in HE at UNSW Sydney using cognitive ethnography, distributed cognition, and multimodal event analysis. He is completing a new book, *Distributed Language: Languaging, affective cognition and the extended human ecology* for Routledge as well as one entitled *The Linguistic Imagination*. He is on the editorial boards of six international peer reviewed journals. He is currently investigating the gesture-graphic trace relation with colleagues in Birmingham, Glasgow, Odense, and Marseille, from the perspectives of the production and reception/perception using a methodology that brings together expertises in multimodal interaction analysis, neurophenomenology, cognitive neuroscience, and fractal scaling.

For more information about the UNSW Learning Analytics & Data Science in Education Research Group (LA-EDS), [**click here.**](#)

Event date:

21st May 2018, 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location:

Mathews Building Room 227

Open to:

Staff & Students Only: Event open only to UNSW Staff & Students

Seats available:

50

Cost:

Free

Contact name:

Dr Lorenzo Vigentini

Contact email:

[**I.vigentini@unsw.edu.au**](mailto:I.vigentini@unsw.edu.au)

Register now:

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