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The Open University

Linguistic Ethnography and Sociocultural Psychology in conversation: a workshop on educational dialogue and classroom interaction

Saturday, 16th February 2008, 10:00-16:30
The Open University, Milton Keynes

How should we make sense of classroom discourse? Thirty years of research have produced a broad range of methodological approaches and corresponding interpretations. Some researchers have focused on how teachers and pupils interact around academic content, discussing for example the relative merits of “procedural display”, scaffolding or dialogue. Others have attended to processes of social identification and power relations, producing accounts, for example, of cultural reproduction, labelling, resistance and “third spaces”. Different sets of methods of data selection and analysis have been brought to bear on these two largely distinct sets of questions, and rarely have both been brought together in the same study.

This workshop seeks to bring these diverse perspectives on classroom discourse – in particular, Sociocultural Psychology and Linguistic Ethnography – into cross-disciplinary conversation. It aims to use the contrast of various methods for studying discourse data as an opportunity to probe affordances and limitations, and to investigate possibilities for integration and/or borrowing.

Speakers and discussants include

- Professor Kris Gutierrez, University of California at Los Angeles
- Professor Neil Mercer, University of Cambridge
- Professor Ben Rampton, King’s College London

Data analysis will be at the centre of the workshop, and participants will be provided with opportunities to immerse themselves in classroom discourse data, review analytic techniques, and come to terms with competing interpretations. Data will primarily focus on the issue of educational dialogue, which has become a particularly timely issue in both research and policy.

Fee: £30 (including lunch), £15 for PhD students.

Spaces are strictly limited, so early registration is advised.

For more information, see www.rdi-elc.org.uk or contact rdi-elc@kcl.ac.uk.

The workshop is part of the ESRC-sponsored Ethnography, Language and Communication Researcher Development Initiative (www.rdi-elc.org.uk), together with the Open University.

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Programme

10.00-10.20	Arrival and coffee
10.20-10.45	Introduction: "Dialogue" in educational research, policy and practice – Dr. Adam Lefstein, Institute of Education, University of London
10.45-12.25	Dialogue and development: a sociocultural psychological perspective – Professor Neil Mercer, University of Cambridge Small group data analysis and discussion Discussant: Dr. Janet Maybin, The Open University
12.30-1.15	Lunch
1.15-2.55	Classroom interaction: a linguistic ethnographic perspective – Professor Ben Rampton, King's College London Small group data analysis and discussion Discussant: Professor Christine Howe, University of Cambridge
3.00-3.15	Tea
3.15-3.45	Response: Professor Kris Gutierrez, University of California at Los Angeles
3.45-4.30	Discussion and conclusion

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Registration form

Personal details

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

Affiliation

Organization	
Department	
Position	

Research projects / interests

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