



Meredith Marra

The talk between: Preparing for transitions at work

Mobility is now an endemic feature of working lives. Crossing boundaries into new jobs, new industries, new communities, and even new countries, entails a complex mix of interactional challenges and opportunities. As discourse analysts working with naturally-occurring data, our findings have the potential to offer practical advice on interactional norms to those entering new workplace contexts. Typically, however, our research has focussed on core business events, and the data used for analysis has been collected within intact working groups. But talk at work is more than an amalgamation of discrete discourse activities based on a set of standard interactional norms. In this talk I argue for the relevance of transitions as a necessary research focus to enhance ongoing researcher-practitioner dialogue, including transitions between topics and activities, transitions between communities, and transitions across national borders.