



ISM SEMINAR

Spring Term 2015-16

Speaker: Professor Jonathan Hindmarsh, King's College London

Title: Sociomaterial configurations and interactional practices: Unpacking collaboration in robotically-assisted surgery

Date: Wednesday 02 March 2016

Venue: 1.015, WBS

Time: 14:00

Abstract: The growing body of work concerned with sociomateriality is heavily invested in the notion that there is an 'inherent inseparability' of the technical and the social. This paper explores this notion at a fine-grained level of analysis – at the level of interactional practices. In doing so, it considers how interactional practices can emerge to address practical problems related to innovative new sociomaterial configurations. More specifically it focuses on the relatively recent case of robotically-assisted surgery. These 'robots' are not acting autonomously, but are controlled by the surgeon, who is sitting a few feet from the patient. The surgeon is supported by, amongst others, an assistant and a scrub nurse. The paper unpacks, and reflects on the significance of, the interactional practices that arise to address practical problems in the coordination of the team's work. The paper adopts an approach informed by ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, and is illustrated by extracts from audio-visual data collected during a series of colorectal operations. It is hoped that both the approach and the findings provide novel contributions to studies concerned with sociomateriality in work and organisations.

Biography: **Jon Hindmarsh** is Professor of Work and Interaction in the School of Management and Business at King's College London. He analyses social interaction in a variety of organisational settings and has focused on issues of embodiment, materiality, teamwork and training. He also engages in interdisciplinary research to explore the potential for these kinds of studies to inform the design of new technologies. His books include *Video in Qualitative Research* (co-authored with Christian Heath and Paul Luff), *Organisation, Interaction and Practice: Studies in ethnomethodology and conversation analysis* (co-edited with Nick Llewellyn) and *Workplace Studies: Recovering work practices and informing system design* (co-edited with Paul Luff and Christian Heath). [Email: jon.hindmarsh@kcl.ac.uk]

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