

## Multimodal interaction in an academic context – Exiting the staff coffee room

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The coffee room is in principle designed as a social facility for staff members to take breaks and enjoy refreshments during their working hours. The present paper explores how participants manage their exit from a coffee room in an academic context, concentrating on these transitional moments between 'work and leisure' in this primarily social facility. More specifically, the paper asks how participants manage the departure using language as well as their body and material surrounds and, relatedly, how they co-ordinate and time their actions with those of others. The paper draws mainly on multimodal conversation analysis. The findings are based on careful examinations of video-recorded everyday interactions between native speakers of Finnish in a staff coffee room at a university.

Prior research has shown that participants of an interaction use a range of resources to establish a mutual focus of attention and a common state of engagement that makes joint activity between participants possible (Mondada 2009; see also Goodwin 2000, 2003). Furthermore, similar resources are exploited in the dismissal of an interactional space: Laurier (2008), for example, examines how a pair of clients reciprocally display orientation to leaving from a café and consensually manage their departure. LeBaron & Jones (2002) introduce a similar case in which two clients at a beauty salon engage in a brief reunion when one of them is about to exit the salon. LeBaron & Jones argue that the participants draw on their current environment to manage the parting of their ways, suggesting that sequences of interaction must indeed be analyzed relative to the social and physical surroundings in which they are embedded. The coffee room provides a venue for a flux of participants and fluctuation of activities. It thus offers a rich source for observations about the management and co-ordination of departures.

### References

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