

## On “Uh” and “Uhm” and some of the Things They are Used to Do (invited presentation)

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My invitation to participate in this occasion remarked that “it would be especially interesting and fruitful for us to initiate a dialogue between Conversation Analysis and fields more traditionally represented at this workshop (e.g., AI, computational linguistics, psychology), to increase our understanding of similarities (and perhaps differences) in approach and findings,” and I have chosen my topic accordingly. The empirical focus of my presentation will be “uh(m);” the “field more traditionally represented at this workshop” will be psycholinguistics/cognitive science; among the similarities and differences in approach to be taken up will be the study of naturalistic data and the use of *corpora*, as in *corpus (psycho-)linguistics*. The theme of the talk (most generally put) is that the natural home of language is in talking; that the natural home of talking is in interaction; that talking-in-interaction is the product of describable organizations of practice that we now know something about; that these organizations of practice engender *places* or *positions* in the talk; that virtually everything in conversation needs to be understood by reference to both position and composition; and, consequently, that a proper understanding of language and of its deployment and understanding in the natural world will require coming to terms with the practices of talking-in-interaction.