

**rEACH Connectivity Webinar Series:
fostering collaboration in health communication research with**

Jennifer Gerwing

Appreciating the role of relationships in research

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Jennifer researches healthcare communication using video-recorded clinical interactions, focusing on interlocutors' observable communication behaviours while talking together. She works in collaborative teams, so the research has a solid basis in dialogic theory, is relevant to clinical practice, and can be helpful for education and training. Her expertise lies in working inductively, tailoring systematic analyses to specific research questions. She currently works at the Health Services Research Unit at Akershus University Hospital (Norway) and the division of prehospital work in the Department of Nursing and Health Promotion at OsloMet University (Norway). Current collaborations include researchers from Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Canada, and the US.

In this presentation, I will share my occupational trajectory from an enthusiastic junior research assistant in a dialogic interaction laboratory group to a researcher who can pursue and support studies on discovering the details of how healthcare providers and patients talk together. I will use that trajectory to share some key moments that taught me about creating and fostering meaning in my work. In 1999, I began training as an experimental social psychologist, working with a group headed by the late professor Janet Bavelas. Her group designed and implemented dialogic experiments, collecting video recordings in the lab and developing bespoke microanalyses to test hypotheses. My PhD work was a departure: I had the opportunity to work with home videos of parent-infant interactions and demonstrated that our analytical approach worked in non-laboratory interactions. Upon finishing my PhD in Psychology in 2008, I struggled to reconcile my developing skills and hopes with available jobs. It was discouraging! I wish I could have felt more optimistic because the last fourteen years have been interesting, fruitful, and fun. In this presentation, I will share a few things that I have found helpful so far. I have benefited from recognizing and reaching out to folks I can learn from and being alert to (sometimes unexpected) opportunities. I have learned to be courageous enough to envision possibilities without getting hung up too soon with the details of exactly how and when they will happen. I have nurtured relationships with bright, fun people who have taught me the importance of trust, respect, and the ongoing learning process of multi-disciplinary collaboration.

The presentation will be followed by 10 min Q&A and 30 min of guided **networking** led by members of the rEACH Connectivity Group.

Date/Time: Tuesday 31 Jan 2023 @ 4:00 pm - 5 pm (GMT) or 17.00 – 18.00 (CET)

Please register here: <https://each.international/calendar/reach-connectivity-webinar-series-fostering-collaboration-in-healthcare-communication-research/>