

## Transcription of spoken data: Insights, challenges, dilemmas

**Call for abstracts: Symposium at the British Association for Applied Linguistics  
56th Annual Conference, 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August 2023, University of York, UK**

Transcription of spoken interaction is routinely undertaken by linguists in the course of our research. It is also a task performed in many institutional contexts, such as police interviewing. While its importance is routinely underestimated in those institutions, it has also received relatively little theoretical attention within linguistics, despite several important studies over the years (e.g. Cook, 1990; Bucholtz, 2000).

Our symposium at BAAL 2023 aims to reinvigorate debate around transcription practice within linguistics, building on recent work conducted on both linguistic and institutional practices, which indicates several areas of concern (Love & Wright, 2021; Richardson et al., 2022). We will bring this topic out from the background of our professional practice and into the open, creating a space for researchers to share their experiences, since there is often not an appropriate forum in which to air the challenges and dilemmas which can arise. Yet the transcription decisions we make can have huge ramifications for our research findings and research integrity. We particularly wish to consider transcription of accents, dialects and language varieties, as well as transcription in multimodal discourse contexts.

### Presentation formats

We invite proposals for **full paper presentations** (30 minutes) and **short paper presentations** (15 minutes) – please indicate your preference clearly. For the short presentations, we welcome contributions from those who may not have researched transcription in its own right, but for whom it became methodologically relevant, problematic or interesting in the course of other research.

Abstracts should be **300 words** and submitted by the deadline of **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. Abstracts not accepted to the symposium will be considered for the general conference programme. Notification of acceptance: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Abstracts should be submitted via the BAAL 2023 website rather than via email; see here for further instructions: <https://www.baalconference2023.com/call-for-papers/>

### Symposium organisers

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### References

- Cook, G. (1990). Transcribing infinity: Problems of context presentation. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 14(1), 1-24.
- Bucholtz, M. (2000). The politics of transcription. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 32, 1439-1465.
- Richardson, E., Haworth, K., & Deamer, F. (2022). For the record: Questioning transcription processes in legal contexts. *Applied Linguistics*, 43(4), 677-697.
- Love, R., & Wright, D. (2021). Specifying challenges in transcribing covert recordings: Implications for forensic transcription. *Frontiers in Communication*, 6.