

## Dissecting Professional Vision in the Operating Room

To see as a surgeon is to see in ways both accurate and expedient. In this presentation I will draw on two conceptualizations—Goodwin's (1994) description of 'professional vision' and Garfinkel's (2002) seminal notion of Instructed Action (IA)—to explore how newcomers come to see in what might be described as professional ways. Goodwin defined 'professional vision' as the "socially organized ways of seeing and understanding events that are answerable to the distinctive interests of a particular social group" (p. 606). For Garfinkel, all recognizable action is Instructed Action. The particular kind of 'instruction' with which he is concerned need not precede the act nor exist independently; instead, the instruction and the instruction-following are reflexively co-constituted. Building on this conceptualization, professional vision in the OR is not an abstract capacity that surgeons somehow come to possess, but rather an accountable aspect of all competent action. Observers must dissect the practical details of an action to uncover whatever 'instruction' might lie within. I will concretize how such an analysis might be done by reference to a previously described segment of interaction (Koschmann, LeBaron, Goodwin, & Feltovich, 2011), one that occurred in the OR of a teaching hospital.

Garfinkel, H. (2002). *Ethnomethodology's program: Working out Durkheim's aphorism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Goodwin, C. (1994). Professional vision. *American Anthropologist*, 96, 606-633.

Koschmann, T., LeBaron, C., Goodwin, C., & Feltovich, P. (2011). "Can you see the cystic artery yet?" A simple matter of trust. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 43, 521-541. doi:10.1016/j.pragma.2009.09.009