Discussion Paper

1 **Some systematic aspects of self-initiated mobile device**
2 **use in face-to-face encounters**

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4 1 Introduction

5 This paper investigates self-initiated uses of mobile devices -
6 mobile phones or smartphones - in video-recorded face-to-
7 face encounters. Exploiting the analytical framework of
8 ethnomethodological conversation analysis, it illustrates
9 when and how participants publicly frame their own device
10 use, and how co-present others respond to it. While early
11 sociological accounts of public mobile phone use have well
12 described that both phone users and non-users observably
13 react and adapt to practices involving mobile devices, a
14 systematic description of recurrent patterns of "public"
15 mobile phone use still remains to be established.
16   Early studies focused on mobile device use in freely
17 accessible and anonymous public spaces, worked with
18 fleeting observations of and reported claims about
19 problematic mobile device use, and usually connected it to an
20 assumed overall social order ("etiquette", "face" or "stage"-
21 management, cf. 2.1). This paper adopts an alternative
22 approach to "socially problematic" mobile device use by
23 investigating the individual handling of a mobile device as a
24 public and accountable practice in focused encounters (in
25 both public and private settings), and by describing how
26 participants systematically manage practical problems of
27 diverging orientations and activities in co-presence (2.2).
28 Based on video recordings and transcripts of naturally
29 occurring social encounters in Czech, this contribution

30 adopts a conversation analytic perspective on divergent
31 mobile phone uses in face-to-face encounters, i.e. uses that
32 are not framed as joint activities, but as individual action
33 trajectories of a single participant. The analyses will
34 contribute to a more recent line of interactional research on
35 mobile phones in face-to-face encounters (2.3) by focusing
36 on the initiation of classic device uses in co-presence of
37 others; such as writing a text message (3.1, 3.2) or making a
38 phone call (3.3). The adopted sequential and multimodal
39 approach reveals that even divergent mobile device use is not
40 a priori treated as problematic. Participants can, but do not
41 automatically account for their individual device use by
42 formulating an "announcement sequence". The analysis seeks
43 to explain when and how these sequences emerge, and how
44 the participants' choices are consequential for the
45 management of multiple action trajectories (4).

46 **2 Sociological and interactional accounts of the mobile telephone:**
47 **public perceptions of "private" communication and use**

48 The tension between "public" and "private" communication
49 settings has been recognized as one type of problematic issue
50 already in the landline phone's times (Höflich 1989, 1996: 195-
51 231, Pool 1977, see also König/Oloff 2019), but did not spark
52 an extensive sociological interest (Fischer 1992), probably
53 because it has been perceived as an already fully
54 domesticated technology (Berker 2006, Höflich 2009: 65-69,
55 Silverstone/Haddon 1996). The appearance of the mobile
56 phone however met with an immediate academic
57 enthusiasm; in the beginning mostly with respect to its
58 general perceivable uses in public space (2.1), and, more
59 specifically, in relation to the tension between the social
60 encounter in copresence and the involvement with the
61 device (2.2). More recently, research is increasingly
62 interested in the detailed management of talk-in-interaction
63 and concurrent device use (2.3).

64 2.1 A new observable practice in public space

65 While other personal mobile devices have been used in
66 public space before (e.g. the Walkman, DuGay et al. 1997,
67 Goggin 2006: 6-10), the mobile phone generated far more

68 scientific output. Indeed, it was not its most evident
69 innovation itself, i.e., the mobility of the device, that
70 motivated early ethnographic observations and descriptions
71 in the first place, but rather the mere visibility and audibility
72 of a new communication practice in public space. The
73 metaphor of privacy somehow seeping into the public space
74 and life (often referring to Sennett 1977), in which the mobile
75 phone seems to act autonomously, was popular especially in
76 earlier studies:

77   "Much has been asked about whether cell phones privatize
78   public spaces or publicize private spaces. This is the same
79   case of whether the cell phone is responsible for taking one
80   in or out of physical space: the borders have been blurred
81   and it is hard to define what is private and what is public.
82   The very concepts of private and public have been
83   transformed." (de Souza e Silva 2006: 33)

84 The now spatially independent reception or initiation of
85 phone calls in public spaces led to two fundamental practical
86 problems with respect to social conduct in co-presence. First,
87 how do the phone users manage their physical presence and
88 ongoing activity with respect to their sudden involvement
89 with the phone? And second, how do the co-present others
90 adequately react to and coordinate with respect to this
91 possibly competitive involvement? Especially in earlier
92 studies, the use of the mobile phone has been represented
93 (both by researchers and study respondents) as entering in
94 conflict with the usual social norms and conduct in public:
95 the phone can ring at unpredictable and unsuitable moments,
96 trigger psychological or emotional stress, and disrupt ongoing
97 face-to-face interactions (Cumiskey 2005, Höflich 2009, Katz
98 2006), leaving "bystanders helplessly waiting" (Geser 2004:
99 22). Co-present parties are possibly annoyed by being forced
100 to listen to phone calls that are "acts of unreciprocated
101 communication" (Katz 2006: 44) and that reveal information
102 bystanders would not like to obtain – and that the phone user
103 might not want to reveal (Ling 2008: 93-95). Although the
104 commonplace vision of the "intrusiveness" of the mobile
105 phone has been also criticized (e.g. Lasén 2005: 41), it is
106 widely assumed in early studies (e.g. Kopomaa 2000). This
107 might be linked to the fact that Goffman's observations on
108 public social conduct (Goffman 1963, 1971) have been quite

109 prominently adopted in this context: notions such as "civil
110 inattention", "impression management", or "front vs. back
111 stage" have been consistently used in order to describe the
112 dynamics of public mobile phone use (e.g. Geser 2005,
113 Höflich/Kircher 2010, Ling 1997, 2008: 57-72, Persson 2001,
114 Plant 2001).

115 2.2 Managing two concurrent interactional involvements

116 The problematic character of public mobile phone use has
117 essentially been linked to the fact that phone users "occupy
118 multiple social spaces simultaneously" (Palen et al. 2001: 110),
119 i.e. the physical space of the phone user and the "virtual
120 space of the conversation" (Palen et al. 2000). This leads to
121 different types of observable social conduct: phone users
122 actively look for an appropriate space for making a call by
123 turning or moving their body away from co-present others,
124 possibly formulating an apology (Geser 2004, Lasén 2005:
125 94). They frequently withdraw their gaze from their co-
126 present interlocutors, it can wander around or be directed
127 into the distance (Plant 2001: 53). Co-present participants, for
128 their part, do usually not gaze at phone callers, they turn their
129 bodies away from the caller or retreat to a different area
130 (Lasén 2005: 94, Ling 2004: 135-136, Murtagh 2002),
131 alternatively, they might find some other task in order to
132 displace their attention (Plant 2001: 34). If co-present
133 participants choose to sanction public phone use, they can do
134 so by ostensibly turning their head to the phone user, by
135 sighing, by looking at them "disapprovingly", or even by
136 critically commenting on the phone use, addressing either the
137 phone user or other bystanders (Lasén 2005: 78, Ling 1997,
138 Okabe/Ito 2005, Plant 2001: 32-34).
139   This diversity of practices among phone users and
140 bystanders is connected to a variation in spaces or in cultures,
141 and/or to a development in user norms and attitudes.
142 Participants are more likely to use their phones in
143 "transitory" spaces - typically public transports (Lasén 2006,
144 Paragas 2005, Schlote/Linke 2010) - than in spaces in which
145 highly ritualized forms of interaction take place (Geser 2004:
146 26, Höflich 2009, 2014). The acceptability of public phone
147 use is also said to depend on distinctions between "indoor"
148 (shops, bars, cafés, restaurants) and "outdoor" settings (streets

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149   and places, cf. Lasén 2005: 70-94, Ling 1997, Taylor 2005),
150   and the degree of formality of a given space (e.g. different
151   types of restaurants, Plant 2001: 36-38, or institutional
152   settings such as schools, Ling/Yttri 1999, Taylor 2005: 160-
153   163). Some studies also investigate differences according to
154   countries or global cultural zones (Höflich 2005, Katz/Aakhus
155   2002, Lasén 2005, Plant 2001, Rivière/Licoppe 2005). In an
156   early study with 19 new mobile phone users, Palen et al.
157   (2000) noticed how people quickly adopt different
158   perceptions regarding public mobile phone use, which
159   becomes more acceptable once they start using a mobile
160   phone themselves (Plant 2001: 31). Also Lasén (2005)
161   observed how participants in different European countries
162   modified their phone use in a timespan of only two years
163   (2002-2004): they used their phones longer and more
164   frequently, engaged in more multi-tasking (e.g. texting while
165   walking or phoning while pushing a bike, Lasén 2005: 52),
166   and displayed their emotions while talking on the phone
167   more explicitly (Lasén 2005: 89). They also tended to stay
168   more frequently in the participation framework of an ongoing
169   face-to-face interaction when making a call, and were
170   described to listening to co-present parties while texting, to
171   making short comments to co-present others while being on
172   the phone (Lasén 2005: 96-98), or to using loudspeakers in
173   order to make others participate in a phone call (Lasén 2006).
174   More detailed observations of public phone use therefore
175   reveal that participants frame and respond to it in situated
176   and flexible ways, and that handling the double involvement
177   seems to become less and little problematic over the course
178   of time.
179   Regardless of some attempts to draw a more balanced
180   picture of public mobile phone use, early studies have largely
181   focused on a dichotomic view of public/private and of phone
182   users/non-phone users. On the one hand, this can be related
183   to the type of data, as most of the aforementioned studies
184   have used ethnographic and anonymous observation or
185   variations of breaching experiments in public spaces,
186   sometimes also interviews or focus groups. On the other
187   hand, the analyses have been mostly relying on reported
188   practices and traditional sociological concepts (e.g. of the
189   city, of public space, of social conduct). While this resulted in
190   important descriptions of early mobile phone adoption and

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191 use, more detailed explorations of how exactly the mobile
192 phone is possibly intruding in ongoing interactions and how
193 the participants manage this double orientation have been
194 developed only at a later point.

195 2.3 Mobile phone use in talk-in-interaction

196 The early mobile phone user has been typically observed and
197 conceived as an isolated actor, even if collaborative uses have
198 been occasionally described, such as sharing the phone and
199 media content on the phone with remote (Oksman 2006) or
200 co-present participants (Relieu 2008, Taylor/Harper 2003,
201 Taylor 2005: 156, Weilenmann/Larsson 2002, see also
202 Sudermann this issue). In parallel with the increasing number
203 of mobile device users and the growing frequency of uses
204 within the last years, the sociological interest has noticeably
205 turned to more differentiated questions. As mobile device use
206 has now penetrated all types of situations and settings of
207 everyday social practices, it has become available for more
208 systematic and fine-grained observation. This has been
209 especially done within the framework of conversation
210 analysis (Sacks et al. 1974), using audio/video data of naturally
211 occurring interactions and detailed transcripts of talk and
212 embodied conduct (Mondada 2013a, 2016). In this domain,
213 the question of how participants in co-presence sequentially
214 manage the double involvement of the ongoing interaction
215 and their phone use has been recently tackled in more
216 precise ways. Studies illustrate, among others, how the
217 smartphone is exploited for topical development in
218 conversations (Keppler 2019, Porcheron et al. 2016), how it is
219 used for carrying out collaborative searches (Brown et al.
220 2013, 2015, Suderland this issue), how the responding to an
221 incoming text message is related to different "discursive
222 identities" (DiDomenico et al. 2018), or how showing
223 sequences of media content are initiated and carried out
224 (Oloff 2019a, Porcheron et al. 2016, Raclaw et al. 2016).
225   While earlier research has pointed at an overall and a
226 priori problematicity of mobile device use and focused
227 mainly on reported moral aspects, first micro-analytical
228 studies of the coordination between the talk and the device
229 use and of the situated negotiation of related moral aspects
230 have been established more recently (cf. Robles et al. 2018).

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231 Research within the tradition of conversation analysis is
232 interested in the management of joint coordination, therefore
233 collaborative or "convergent" uses (Brown et al. 2013) of
234 mobile devices have been more readily considered. In
235 contrast, "divergent uses", i.e., when the mobile device use is
236 disconnected from the ongoing conversation (Brown et al.
237 2013), have more rarely taken centre stage within this
238 approach: Mantere/Raudsakoski (2017) analyse how a
239 participant tries to overcome the pervasiveness of the "sticky
240 media device", struggling to obtain a smartphone user's
241 attention and response. DiDomenico/Boase (2013) show how
242 a participant is shifting her attention back and forth between
243 the face-to-face interaction and her texting activity (see also
244 DiDomenico et al. 2018). By turning to her phone at sequence
245 endings and suspending the use in response to her co-
246 participant's summons, the phone user clearly demonstrates
247 that she treats the ongoing interaction as a "primary
248 involvement", the texting as a "secondary involvement".
249 Finally, in their study of mobile phone use in pubs, Porcheron
250 et al. (2016) conclude that using a mobile device in co-
251 presence with others remains problematic, as this frequently
252 leads to "[...] interruptions, recapitulations of the conversation
253 for members re-joining, displays of attentiveness despite
254 ostensible inattentiveness, and prompts of absent-minded
255 members" (ibid.: 9). They also notice that participants
256 verbally account especially for "unrelated device use" (i.e.,
257 not connected to the conversation, cf. the "divergent uses"
258 mentioned by Brown et al. 2013) and thus "[...] make their
259 device interaction both observable and reportable to the
260 other members within the setting." (Porcheron et al. 2016: 6).
261 The results of the latter contributions hint at the need to
262 describe the organization of the device-related double
263 involvements more extensively, e.g. on which grounds do
264 phone users give preference to one or the other activity, and
265 which interactional details reveal if the participants treat the
266 device use as interactionally problematic?

3 Analysis

This section will illustrate interactional features that are constitutive for the way in which participants frame their own smartphone use and the way in which co-participants respond to it. The analysis is based on a number of excerpts from different data sets that have been video recorded between 2013 and 2016[1] in mundane settings such as cafés, pubs, or in the participants' homes. Participants were well acquainted with each other and did not receive any instructions as regards conversational topics, structures, or length of the recording (cf. Mondada 2013b). The analytical work on which this contribution is based has considered both Czech and German data (Oloff 2019b), but for the sake of clarity, it will focus on Czech examples (for excerpts of the German data see Oloff 2019a). More details on the respective recordings will be given in the different analytic sections.

The data have been transcribed according to the Jeffersonian conventions (Jefferson 2004). The multimodal annotations have been made according to Mondada's conventions (Mondada 2016[2]), and screen captures of the recording depicting relevant postures or actions have been positioned in the transcripts using "#" and continuous numbers within each transcript. In the transcripts, the Czech original talk will be in black, the idiomatic translation to English in blue, and the multimodal annotations in grey. All proper names have been replaced with pseudonyms.

A fine-grained multimodal approach, considering both the sequential and the embodied dimension of the social encounter (Deppermann/Streeck 2018, Goodwin 1981, Mondada 2016, Streeck et al. 2011), will examine verbal turn formats and embodied actions that precede and accompany the self-initiated mobile device use. The excerpts, in which one co-participant initiates the writing of a text message (3.1, 3.2) or a phone call (3.3), exemplify that both mobile device users and co-present others orient to the relevance of:

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1 Data have initially been collected within a project interested in joint utterance formulation ("The epistemics of grammar: A comparative study of co-constructions in Czech, French, and German", Swiss National Science Foundation, Ambizione Grant no. 148146, 2014-2016).

2 See also Mondada's conventions for multimodal transcription online: https://franzoesistik.philhist.unibas.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/franzoesistik/mondada_multimodal_conventions.pdf (last visited on 06.11.2019)

302   • the channel or "technology" used (call/SMS/internet,
303   audible/non-audible/visible),
304   • the topical and sequential fittedness of the device use
305   with respect to prior and ongoing talk,
306   • the participant constellation (dyadic/multi-party),
307   • the opacity of what is done with the mobile device,
308   • the possible opacity of how the device use is
309   multimodally framed by its holder.

310 The analysis will lead to some general reflections on how
311 participants organize the management of multiple action
312 trajectories with respect to personal mobile devices.
313 Moreover, it will illustrate how a detailed multimodal
314 perspective on such moments can unravel fundamental
315 sequential mechanisms of normative orientations in mobile
316 device use, which have been acknowledged, but not yet
317 described in detail (cf. section 2).

318 3.1 Writing a text message in co-presence

319 The first excerpt illustrates how one of the participants in a
320 dyadic interaction self-initiates the writing of a text message.
321 In the family's home, Jitka (JIT) and her mother Ludmila
322 (LUD) are chatting about various topics such as the daughter's
323 study and holiday plans or the mother's past student life (total
324 recording time 50 minutes). Before the beginning of the
325 excerpt, Ludmila has enquired about the study curriculum of
326 one of Jitka's friends, who has studied both at the university
327 and at the French Institute (002-011). While Ludmila expands
328 on this topic, it has already come to a possible end, as the
329 pauses and Jitka's delayed answer indicate (001, 005-006).
330 Jitka simultaneously withdraws her gaze from her mother
331 (006, fig. 1) and starts to look at the table, to the spot where
332 her mobile phone is lying, seizing it soon thereafter (007-008,
333 fig. 2). In the rest of the excerpt, Jitka will explicitly account
334 for her disengagement from the joint conversation, all the
335 while commenting on her writing of a text message to a friend
336 and thus continuing to interact with Ludmila.

337 **Transcript (1):** BOL_SMS_002720

```
001      (1.5)
002  L   a jak to, že vona studuje na
         and how come that she is studying at the
003      institutu- já myslela že studuje     na .h
         institute   I thought she is studying at .h
004      (0.3) *univerzitě      +ne;
         (0.3)  the university  isn't she
     l         *...gaze J----------->014
     j   >>gaze down----------+..gaze L->
005      (0.6)
006  J   .th .h + no,#1
         .th .h    well,
     j   >gaze L+..gaze to table/in front->
```
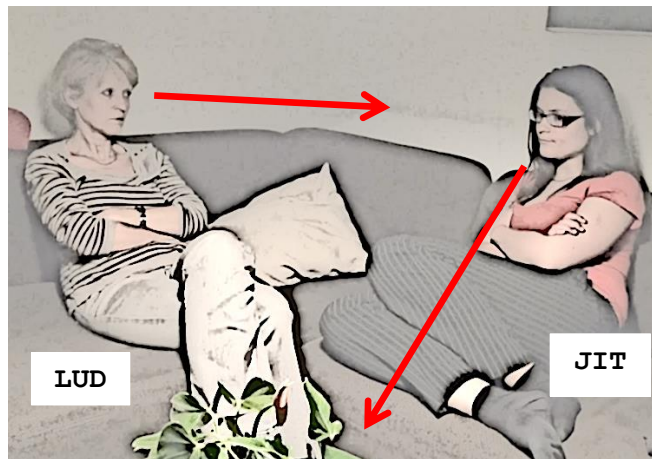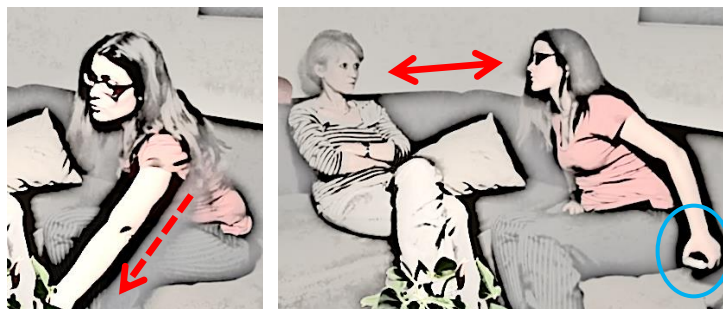

Figure #1

```
007      (0.9)+(0.2)
     j        +..dissolves posture-->
008  J   ne; na francouzském institutu=ONA už tos#2
         no  at the French    institute=she's already
     j   >---reaches for phone, bends forward----->
009      tou+ univerzitou#3 skončila;
         finished with university
     j      +..gaze L while retracting to sofa->
```

Figure #2   Figure #3

```
010        (0.8)
011  J     °ona už toho nechala.°#4
            she already left it
     j     >--holds phone in hands, turns screen->
```
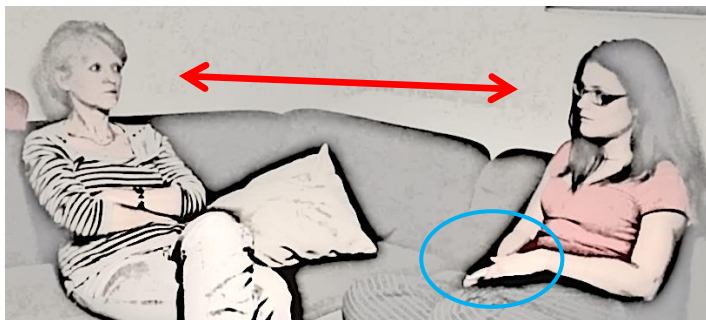

Figure #4

```
012  L     °mhm_hm,°
013  J     +.h >hele  +víš co mi došlo,<        že jsem
            .h listen y'know what I've realized that I
     j     +...gaze down/phone----------------->037
     j                +button/unlocks screen, taps-->
014        nenapsala Ev*ě Černo*vé=já ji °budu muset
            haven't written Eva Černová=I will have to
     l     >gaze J-----*J's phone*..gaze J----->
015        asi napsat.°#5      (.) rychlou esemesku.
            probably write her (.) a quick SMS
```


Figure #5

```
016  L     °proč,°
            why
017  J     .h: °že jsem ji měla vol*at.°
            .h:  that I had to call her
     l     >gaze J----------------*,,,
018        (0.6)
019  L     °mhm° °tak (.) ji napiš es°emesku+ že,°
            mhm   so  (.) write her an SMS     that
     j     >phone in lap-------------------+..lifts>
020  J     já ji napíšu  [rychle:,           ]#6
```

```
           I'll write her [quickly          ]
021   L                    [*°nemáš čas(h),°]+he,*
                           [you don't have tim(h)e] he,
      j     >brings phone&hands in position+starts SMS
      l     >gaze in front--*..gaze J-----------*,,,
```
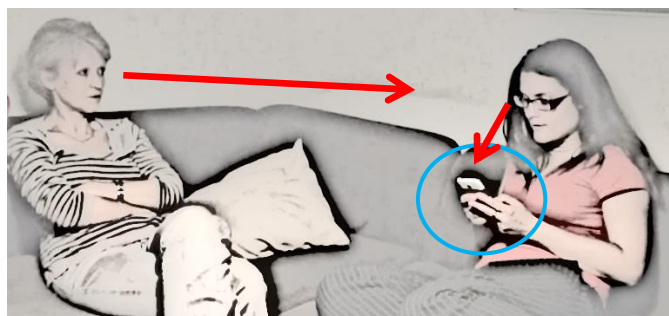

Figure #6

```
022         (0.4)
023   J     .th:: (1.0) °prosím°*(0.3) tě
            .th:: (1.0)<hi (0.3) there ((please you))>
      j      >taps on display / writes SMS---------->
      l                         *..gaze J-------->029
024         (0.9) brou::,(.) čin:; (0.2) ku:,
            (0.9) <babe (('little beetle'))>
025         (0.3)
026   L     no   pr(h)os(h)imt(h)ě
            well r(h)eall(h)y
027   J     °zas-°
            °agai-°
028   L     °.h .he h:° ty ji píšeš broučINku; jo
            °.h .he h:° you really write babe to her
029   J     °°.h: .th::°° no,*
            °°.h: .th::°° yes
      l     >gaze J----------*,,,
030         (0.7)
031   J     [za:vo:lám              ]#7 zí:tra:
            [I will call            ]   tomorrow
032   L     [he, he; .hf: (.) °hm::;°]
```
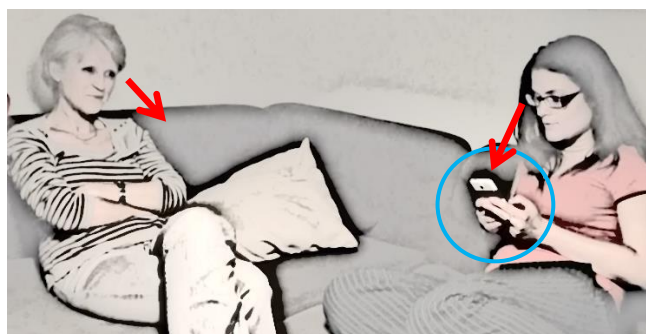

Figure #7

```
033        (1.9)#8
```
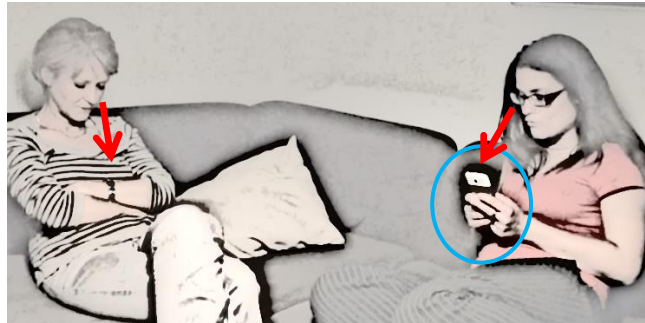

Figure #8

```
034  J    ču, ču;+(0.5) °°.nh hf*::°°(0.6) no aby to
          bye bye(0.5)°°.nh hf::°°(0.6) well so that
     j    >taps--+,,,tilts phone forward->
     l                          *...gaze J------>
035       bylo °vtipný;°*.  (.)+°a   blbý(h)°
          it would be funny (.)  and silly(h)
     l    >gaze J-------*,,,,,
     j                        +screenlock/phone away>
036  L    °he, [he;°
037  J         [+.hFS+:::,:; +NO,
               [ .hFS:::,:;   WELL
     j    >phone+...gaze L--+,,,gaze in front->
     j    >----------+phone on sofa->>
038       (0.3)
039  L    °hah::;°#9 hele prosimtě;
          °hah::;°   hey  listen
```


Figure #9

```
040  J    co je;=H::
          what's up=H::
041  L    táta bude mít    (.) svátek.
          it will be dad's (.) name day.
```
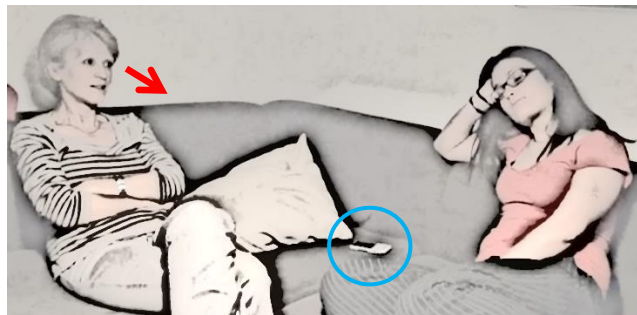
338 Simultaneously to answering her mother's topic expanding
339 question (002-004), Jitka visibly engages in another action
340 trajectory: she starts to look at the table (fig. 1, 006), dissolves
341 her sitting posture (007), bends forward and seizes the phone

342 that has been lying on the coffee table in front of her (fig. 2).
343 Jitka's orientation to the phone is done in passing; she looks
344 back at Ludmila while resuming her position on the sofa (fig.
345 3, 009), projecting a possible completeness of her answer.
346 During the following reformulation of the answer (due to
347 Ludmila's lack of uptake, 010), Jitka keeps the phone in her
348 hands and brings the screen in a ready-to-use position (fig. 4).
349 Right after Ludmila's minimal, closing acknowledgement
350 (012), Jitka initiates a new turn and sequence in which she
351 announces that she has to contact a friend (013-015). The
352 misplacement marker "hele" / "listen" (013) indexes the
353 upcoming turn as unrelated to the directly prior talk
354 (Schegloff/Sacks 1973). Visibly orienting her gaze to the
355 phone in her lap (fig. 5) and simultaneously unlocking and
356 touching the screen, Jitka refers to the projected activity of
357 writing a text message as something that had been planned in
358 the past and that has already been delayed ("I've realized that
359 I haven't written"), that is addressed to a specific person (the
360 use of the proper name, displaying that Ludmila is expected
361 to know this person), and that she is obliged to do ("I will
362 have to"). Finally, she announces a *minimal* suspension, as
363 the SMS will be "quick" (015). Despite these details, Ludmila
364 pursues a further account ("why", 016), which Jitka promptly
365 delivers (017[3]). Although Ludmila momentarily stops looking
366 at Jitka (end 017), she continues with a directive ("so (.) write
367 her an SMS", 019), the use of the imperative displaying her
368 high entitlement (Craven/Potter 2010). Once more, Jitka
369 underlines the "quickness" of her projected texting (020),
370 thereby acknowledging her mother's entitlement.

371 While Jitka has prepared for the writing of the text message
372 from very early on (anticipating the end of a topic and
373 sequence, seizing her phone and bringing it into position), it is
374 only after her mother's directive (019) that she lifts the device
375 and brings it into a writing position (fig. 6). This illustrates that
376 she treats Ludmila's directive as a kind of go-ahead response
377 to her announcement in first position[4], so that both turns

---

3 Note that syntactically however, the turn-constructional unit in 017 works
   (also) a continuation of Jitka's previous turn, specifying the content of the
   "quick SMS" in a subordinate clause.

4 This is also visible in that Ludmila's turn (019, 021) largely reformulates Jitka's
   initial project - rather than formulating a new or different action to be carried
   out.

form an *announcement sequence*. Jitka now starts tapping on
the keyboard, simultaneously voicing the text (023-024). In
absence of screen capture, it cannot be said if the voicing of
the text corresponds to its exact input time on screen; in any
case it addresses two practical problems (cf. DiDomenico et
al. 2018, Suderland this issue): on the one hand, it makes the
otherwise invisible text production on screen and its timing
comprehensible for Ludmila (cf. Mortensen 2013: 122-124).
On the other hand, it allows Jitka to keep up interacting with
her while progressing in the writing of the SMS. This is also
shown by Ludmila responding to this voicing, specifically by
assessing her daughter's choice of address terms used in the
text message (026, 028). That way, the ongoing
writing/voicing activity around the mobile device becomes
entwined with a sequence of talk between the co-present
parties. Jitka's minimal answer however (029) shows that she
does not project an expansion of this sequence at this
moment, especially as her gaze is continuously directed at the
phone display.

Ludmila aligns with Jitka's projected solitary activity by
withdrawing her gaze at the end of the sequence (029, cf. fig
7.), while Jitka continues voicing her text messaging activity
(031). Ludmila now displays a posture of disengagement by
not self-selecting for a next turn (033) and looking down
(probably at her watch, fig. 8). Jitka's greeting projects the end
of her writing (034); directly afterwards she stops tapping on
the display and tilts the phone slightly forward, probably
sending the text message. Only now she provides a more
elaborate response to Ludmila's previous question regarding
the use of the address term "babe" (034-035, cf. 028).
Interestingly, this bi-partite response (first a minimal
response token, 029, then, after a gap, a full response, 034-
035) resembles the way in which she has answered before
(006, 008). Providing a quick, albeit minimal response
(without looking at the co-participant) and then developing it
at a later point (with looking back at the co-participant the
first time) allows Jitka to insert actions related to the device
manipulation (007, 030-033) and to handle both
involvements in parallel. Consequently, this type of
multiactivity is organised in a sequential rather than in a
strictly simultaneous way (Mondada 2014). During her
extended response to Ludmila, Jitka locks the screen and puts

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420 her phone to her right on the sofa (cf. fig. 9). By a loud
421 inbreath, a "no" ("well", 037) and looking back at Ludmila,
422 Jitka audibly and visibly closes the device-related activity.
423 Shortly afterwards, Ludmila initiates a new sequence and
424 topic (039-041).
425   This first excerpt shows that participants orient to the
426 accountable and potentially opaque character of device use
427 in co-presence. It is interesting to note that for Ludmila,
428 Jitka's account of having forgotten to write a message is not
429 sufficient, but that she holds Jitka accountable for publicly
430 providing another reason (016). Jitka's further account - that
431 she couldn't keep her promise to call, 017 - is rather
432 acknowledged than accepted by Ludmila (012). Indeed, the
433 rest of Ludmila's third-position turn (019) displays her
434 entitlement to permit Jitka's device use[5] and even to
435 formulate a suggestion about the content of the message
436 (021). In that sense, the device use has been framed by
437 Ludmila as something that unnecessarily suspends the
438 ongoing interaction, to which then Jitka's voicing of the
439 writing responds, i.e. by making the suspending activity
440 maximally public for Ludmila.

441 3.2 Writing a text message in a multiparty setting

442 In a dyadic setting – such as in the first excerpt - the device-
443 use initiating participant is more likely to be held accountable
444 for partially disengaging from the current conversation (cf.
445 DiDomenico et al. 2018). In settings where more than one
446 participant can be addressed as a recipient or self-select as a
447 next speaker, and in which schisms can lead to parallel
448 conversations (Egbert 1993), the accountability of visible
449 device use and the formulation of explicit accounts might
450 consequently be reduced. Rather than being based on a
451 purely numeric criterium (i.e. two vs. more participants), the
452 second excerpt illustrates that the accountable nature of
453 mobile device use in multi-party settings actually depends on
454 the co-participants' monitoring.

---

5   This moralizing dimension in Ludmila's conduct could be understood as a type
    of category-bound activity, namely as related to the category of "parent" and
    their rights and obligations to monitor and assess their children's social
    conduct (cf. Sacks 1972). See also Ludmila's later assessment of Jitka's wording
    (026, 028).

455   Four participants, Pavel (PAV), Anton (ANT), Milan (MIL)
456 and Karel (KAR), are having some drinks on the terrace of a
457 café after a joint soccer match of their amateur team (fig. 1,
458 total length of recording 200 minutes). In the beginning of the
459 excerpt, Pavel and Karel are not involved in talking, while
460 Anton and Milan are in an ongoing discussion about Milan's
461 work. Anton wonders about Milan's handling of business-
462 related documents when working on different computers
463 (002-005). Anton is looking at his addressed recipient Milan,
464 while Pavel and Karel both gaze in other directions and
465 display no specific orientation towards any co-participant
466 (fig. 1). This "by-sitter" status is used by Karel as an
467 opportunity to pull out his mobile phone and prepare the
468 writing of a text message. In the course of the excerpt, Pavel's
469 visible orientation to Karel will lead to an announcement and
470 thus account of Karel's device use.

471 **Transcript (2):** HAM_SMS_002150

```
001     (2.0)#1
```


ANT   MIL

PAV   KAR

Figure #1

```
002  A  *.ts no právě proto mě za+ráží že prostě
          .ts yes exactly I am suprised that indeed
     k  *...gaze toward A---------------->006
     p  >gaze down--------------+..lifts head
003     +* materiály #2 [nějáké+připravu-]&
          the material [somehow prepare-]&
004  P                 [.h hf:         ]
     p  +...gaze toward K------------>012
     p                 +lifts glass->
     k  *...right Hand twd right pocket-->
```
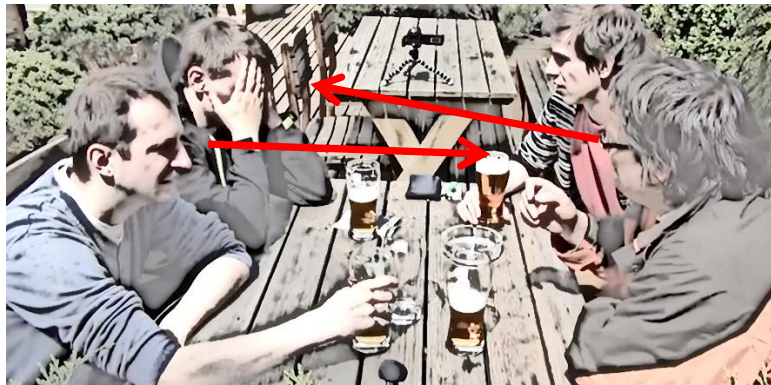
Figure #2

```
005  A  &se [ připra*ví]
        &is [  prepared]
006  M     [ale tak* tod- to-] todle jako#3*nevadí.
           [but so it- it-] this like doesn't matter
     k  >twd A------*...gaze twd P-------------->
     k             left hand to left pocket*....>
007     jo,    (.)* °to- to- to-° todle prostě&
        right, (.)  °it- it- it-° this simply&
     k  >gaze P---*,,,
```


Figure #3

```
008  M  &[myslím (se) jako  (.) z pozice&
        &[I think (it) like (.) from the business&
009  K   [*°bych° moh+ napsat Lukášovi;&&
         [  I could    write  to Lukáš &&
     k    *..gaze twd P---------------->
     p  >drinks------+,puts glass on table, touches>
010  M  &věci jako nevadilo,]
        &point of view it like doesn't matter]
011  K  &&(se zeptám)  jak to    ] je, no;
        &&(I will ask) what about] it  huh
012     *(0.2)
     k  *..takes phone out of pocket->
013  A  +jako*+ne#4ni    +to [*+jakoby:;]
```

```
           like     it isn't     [sort of    ]
014  P                           [°xx°
015  K                           [Lukášovi+#5 na[píš]u:;
                                 [to Lukáš I  wi[ll wr]ite
016  M                                         [ne.
                                               [no
     p  +lifts head/chin+SPK-+gaze down t/his SP-->>
     p  >glass+rHand,,,,,,,,,+......+touches his SP>
     k  >P----*,,gaze twd his mobile phone------->>
     k  >------------------*.takes phone in rHand>
```


Figure #4

Figure #5

```
017  M  +ne ne ne;
         no no no
     p  +grabs his SP with rHand, repositions it>
018  P  a jako s (.) čim, [že a- e-]
        and like with (.) what [that a- e-]
019  K                     [že jsme vy]hráli a že;
                           [that we've won and that
020     +*(0.2) [ať přijde.     ]
           (0.2) [he should come]
021  P          [.ts (.) a ať] príde=m:#6(.)*příště,
        [.ts(.) and that he should come_m:(.) next time
```

```
p  +...left Hand to SP, uses both hands----->>
k  *..retracts phone twd himself------*u/table>
```


Figure #6

```
022  K  on    příde    v  [sobotu:;]
        he will come on [Saturday]
023  A                   [stejně mě to ja]ko
                         [anyway it    li]ke
024     překvapuje jo,    protože vem si,
        surprises me right because for example
025     (1.0) děláš to třeba v ňákym počítači:,&
        (1.0) you do that perhaps on some computer&
```
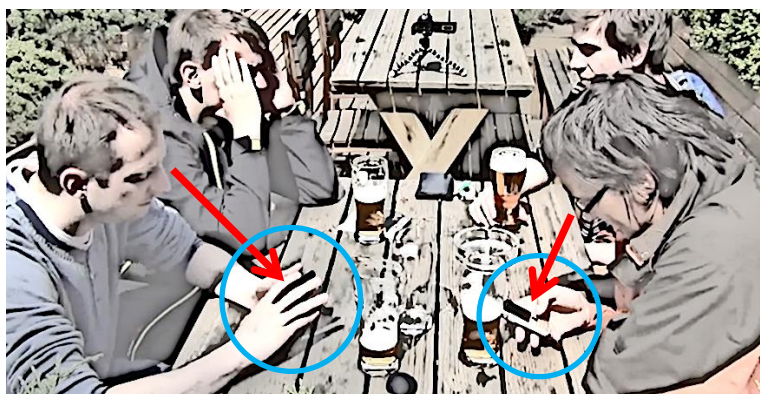
Before reaching for his mobile phone in his pockets, Karel gazes in Anton's direction, thereby monitoring the current speaker's gaze orientation (002). As Anton is still and constantly looking at Milan, his turn (002-003, 005) can be understood as being addressed to Milan rather than the others. While still monitoring Anton (cf. fig. 2), Karel starts searching the right pocket of his jacket with his right hand (003-004). Pavel now looks up and at Karel (003, fig. 2). At the end of Anton's turn, Karel redirects his gaze to Pavel (005-006, fig. 3). When both finally engage in mutual gaze, Pavel has already reached for his glass and is drinking (cf. fig. 3): Pavel monitors Karel, but does not project a turn at this moment (cf. Goodwin 1981).

Shortly afterwards, Karel reaches with his left hand to the left pocket of his jacket, then initiates a turn in which he announces that he "could write to Lukáš" (009, 011). His continuous gaze to Pavel and the turn-final tag ("no", 011) make a response from Pavel relevant. Precisely after the end of this turn (012), Karel starts taking his mobile phone out of his pocket. However, at the end of the turn that he addresses

492 to Pavel, Karel's mobile phone is not yet visible (cf. fig. 3).
493 Indeed, while Pavel has constantly looked at Karel, he does
494 not visibly respond and maintains a steady posture, indicating
495 possible trouble concerning Karel's announcement (Oloff
496 2018a). After the end of Karel's turn (012-013), Pavel lifts his
497 chin and simultaneously starts frowning (cf. fig. 4). This
498 display of repair initiation is quickly dissolved, as he shortly
499 glances at Karel's now visible mobile phone ("SPK" in the
500 multimodal annotation), then directs his gaze down to his
501 own mobile device lying on the table (013-016, fig. 5). This
502 change in the trajectory is also visible in the movement of his
503 right hand: while during repair initiation, Pavel's right hand is
504 still touching the glass of beer he has put down on the table
505 just before (cf. fig. 4), he then retracts his hand by lifting his
506 forearm, and, once he has perceived Karel's phone, he
507 redirects his right hand to his own smartphone on which he
508 unlocks the screen (fig. 5). It is difficult to say if Pavel turns to
509 his own smartphone because he has interpreted Karel's turn
510 as a possible request to write a (joint) message to Lukáš, or if
511 he simply seizes Karel's using the phone as an opportunity to
512 turn to and use his own mobile device. In any case both Pavel
513 and Karel reorient their gaze to their respective mobile
514 device until the end of the excerpt (starting at 013, cf. fig. 5,
515 fig. 6).
516   Karel's reformulation (015) of his initial turn (009) pursues
517 uptake of his announcement (Terasaki 2004) and orients to
518 the absence of Pavel's response (the now turn-initial position
519 of the proper name "Lukáš" in 015 indicating Karel's
520 orientation to a possible repairable). Despite the absence of
521 mutual gaze, both participants continue the sequence of talk
522 initiated by Karel's first announcement. As Karel has now
523 announced for a second time that he will write a message to
524 Lukáš, Pavel's smartphone use does not seem to be related to
525 the writing of a message to Lukáš, but rather to the checking
526 and then writing of another message (see the horizontal
527 repositioning of his smartphone later, 017). In his next
528 question, Pavel is asking about the possible content of Karel's
529 message (018). At a first possible transition relevance place
530 (Sacks et al. 1974), Karel responds by extending his previous
531 turn with a relative clause (019), stating that he will tell Lukáš
532 about their team's victory and that he should come to the
533 next match. With a retraction to the "že"/"that", Pavel

534 formulates a pre-emptive completion of Karel's turn in
535 overlap (020-021), responding in absence of mutual gaze to
536 the possible break in turn progressivity (Oloff 2018b, cf. fig.
537 6). The slightly rising final intonation on the last item in
538 Pavel's turn leads to a try-marked format (Sacks/Schegloff
539 1979: 16) so that Karel responds by a reformulated version
540 (022), thereby treating Pavel's turn as a request for
541 confirmation and closing the sequence he had initiated in
542 009. Both Karel and Pavel now handle their respective
543 mobile devices in silence, Karel being busy positioning his
544 phone under the table in order to avoid light reflection (as he
545 will state 27 seconds later, not shown). Milan and Anton
546 continue on the topic of Milan's work and do not orient to
547 their co-participants' mobile device use.
548   This excerpt illustrates that mobile device use in co-
549 presence is not a priori accountable and can be initiated or at
550 least prepared without commenting on it, as does Karel when
551 starting to search for his phone in his pockets. However, it
552 becomes accountable as soon as the device user (here: Karel)
553 perceives that he is monitored by a co-participant (here:
554 Pavel), which in face-to-face encounters is mostly done
555 through gaze (Goodwin, C. 1980, Goodwin M. H. 1980).
556 Indeed, Karel initiates a first announcement of his phone use
557 soon after having established mutual gaze with Pavel. The
558 fact that Karel pursues a response with a second,
559 reformulated announcement shows that a response by the
560 monitoring co-participant is expected. These announcements
561 of mobile phone use therefore act as first pair parts within an
562 announcement sequence, while the co-participant's response
563 in second position provides a go-ahead for the device use
564 (here, Pavel's try-marked completion). If this go-ahead is
565 minimal or dispreferred, such as in excerpt 1, the device use
566 will be further accounted for (expanding the announcement
567 sequence) and/or commented on (for example by
568 simultaneously voicing the actual writing process, cf. ex. 1).
569   The announcement itself seems to follow a specific
570 structure: it first contains a description of the activity to
571 come, i.e., that message writing will take place, and in both
572 cases the name of the person written to is offered as a
573 recognitional reference (Schegloff 1996). This type of
574 announcement also contains elements more clearly related to
575 the accountability of the device use, which are upgraded in

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576 excerpt 1 (stating the participant's obligation to write the
577 SMS), but unsurprisingly, less strong in excerpt 2, in which
578 Karel initially stays rather vague about the content of the
579 message (011). The voicing of the text message, i.e. making the
580 visible activity of writing audible, which occurs only in
581 excerpt 1, can thus be understood as responding to a co-
582 participant's demand of delivering an upgraded account for
583 the device use.

584 3.3 Making a phone call in co-presence

585 The announced, perceived and negotiated impact of mobile
586 device use in a face-to-face encounter depends also on the
587 type of use that is made of the mobile device: writing a text
588 message can be carried out rather silently (but implies gaze
589 withdrawal), while making a phone call potentially competes
590 with current talk (cf. Schmitt 2005, even if in theory, mutual
591 gaze with co-participants could be maintained during a phone
592 call). The next excerpt will illustrate this problematic
593 potential of phone calls in co-presence of others, and how
594 recipients can treat the absence of an announcement
595 sequence.
596 In excerpt three, Jana (JAN), Hana (HAN) and Pavla (PAV)
597 are meeting at Pavla's place. As Jana is not living in the same
598 town anymore, during this meeting the three friends also
599 provide for thorough mutual updates (total length of
600 recording: 2.5 hours). At this point, Jana talks about the
601 impossibility of selling her parents' house and the importance
602 to keep them rooted in their home environment as long as
603 possible. While Hana audibly and visibly displays her
604 alignment and affiliation to Jana's telling, Pavla has withdrawn
605 from actively contributing to the ongoing conversation as the
606 (rather silent) vibrate alert of her phone has gone off (18
607 seconds before the transcripts starts). Pavla has picked up her
608 phone lying to her left on the couch, but keeps the phone in
609 both hands as it only rang / vibrated twice. She has now
610 decided to return the call and puts the phone to her ear (003,
611 cf. fig. 1). During the call she remains seated next to her
612 friends, who will gradually suspend their talk and respond to
613 Pavla's unannounced smartphone use in various ways.

614   **Transcript (3):** Pink_12_Phonecall Radek_002638

```
001  J    aby::::; na staré kolena °jako (vyžit
          so that at their time of life °like (enjoy
002       [a   jako) neztratili xx&
          [and like) that they don't lose xx&
003  H    [jasně, +někde-      ano=ano=ano=+ano;&&
          [of course; somewhere- yes=yes=yes=yes&&
     p            +taps display, phone to ear-->
     p    >>gaze SP----------------------+.gaze J>
004  J    &jenom v příp][adě;°   ]
          &just  in cas][e       ]
005  H    &&°mhm_hm    ][mhm_hm°]
006  P                  [mhm_hm,]#1(.) mhm_hm,
```


Figure #1

```
007       (.)
008  H    °jas[ně.°
          °of [course°
009  J       [.h:: (.) takže::; m: (0.8) to mi bylo
             [.h:: (.) so:: m: (0.8) for me it was
010       (.) vždycky jako důležité; [a jako ten ]&
          (.)always like important [and like this]&
011  H                               [mhm;_hm,   ]
012  J    &barák je; (.) pro moje rodiče
          &house is  (.) for my parents it
013       znamená všechno;
          means everything
014       (0.7)
015  H    °tak jasně,° (.)
          °yes of course° (.)
016       [°celý život   [tady žijou.°]
          [the whole life [they've been living here]
017  J    [.h::          [takže:]+:;_m.
          [.h::          [   so:]:_m
     p    >gaze J---------------+,gaze front/side>
018       (0.4)
```

```
019  P    no    a[hoj,]
          yes he[llo ]
020  J         [ jo:]:- (0.4) °mh::°#2(j)ako:_m.
               [yeah]:  (0.4) °mh::°     like:_m.
```


Figure #2

```
021  P    co si    [chtěl Rad+ku;   ]
          what did [you want Radek ]
022  J            [je to takhle,  ] otevřené,
                  [it is like that] open
     p    >gaze front/side---+...gaze J-->
023       [a u]vidíme,+ co bu[de;]
          [and we]'ll see what will [be]
024  H    [mhm:_hm,]        [jo=_]jo=[jo=jo.  ]
          [mhm:_hm,]        [yes=]yes[=yes=yes]
025  P                              [ty  si ] mi
                                    [but you']ve
     p    >gaze J-----+,,,gaze front/side->
026       %VOlal ale tedka-
           called me just now
     j    %..head/gaze to P->036
027       *(0.4)*#3/3a(2.4---------)*(0.7)
     h    *..turns head quickly to P*,,gaze ahead->
              *'disapproval' face-*
```


Figure #3   Figure #3a

```
028  H    hf:;
029       *(0.3)*
     h    *slight headshake*
030  P    ehe_he, ty si mi tedka *VOlal;    (0.7)
```

```
        ehe_he, you've just now called me (0.7)
    h   >gaze ahead------------*..down------->
031     d(h)obré;#4(0.5) *tak jo:- a*hoj;
        g(h)ood    (0.5)  okay then  bye
    h   >gaze down-------*...gaze P-*,,down->
```


Figure #4

```
032     (0.9)*+(4.0)+(0.7)
    h   >down*..gaze P/head twd P-------->
    P        +..lowers SP, held in front->
    p             +...gaze J, headshake, smile->
033 P   #5°hF:° °.h°
```


Figure #5

```
034     %(0.9) +(1.0)
    j   %light headshake, smiles
    p   >gaze J+,,,,gaze down/SP->
035 P   .h::::, HF::::;#6
```


Figure #6

```
036     (3.6) %(1.0)
    j   >twd P%,,,gaze forward->
037 P   .h::
```

```
038        (3.8)
039 P    +no %mluv*te;   nějak #7+jste potichu
          well speak     you're kind of silent
     P   +..gaze J-------------+..H---->
     j        %..gaze P------------------>
     h             *..gaze P------------->
```


Figure #7

```
040 H    nHE: t(h)ak(h)=
         w(H)ell s(h)o=
041 J    =H::: [he;_he, he_he; .h::;]
042 H         [<☺jsme tě nechtěly rušit
              [<☺we didn't want to disturb you
043      u toho ne ne u:;>]
         while doing huh huh while:>]
044 J     [he_he- (.) .h:        ]
045 P     [<☺ne on mi volal  omy]lem; Radek;>
          [no he called me by mis]take Radek
046      [víš to já jsem   ] se ze- co zas je,°
         [y'know there I'm ] with ze- what's up now
047 J    [aha;            ]
048      (1.3)
049 J    kdo   Radek- to je
         which Radek- this is
```

615 While Jana is setting out why her parents should be able to
616 stay in their house as long as possible, Hana accompanies this
617 formulation work by affiliative response tokens in overlap
618 (001-005). Her close monitoring of Jana's turn development
619 (cf. also their mutual gaze, fig. 1) leads to an additional
620 acknowledgement token at the next transition relevance
621 place (004-005). Pavla, who in the meantime has initiated the
622 call on the smartphone display and has put the phone to her
623 ear (003), attempts to align with the ongoing conversation by
624 looking back at Jana (end of 003, cf. fig. 1) and formulating an
625 acknowledgement as well (006), although it is late compared
626 to Hana's response and does not address Jana's turn in a

627 particularly affiliative way (compare with Hana's next turn in
628 008). Jana then elaborates on her prior explanations (009-
629 013), which again is received by Hana with an upgraded
630 affiliative response (015-016). While Jana self-selects again in
631 overlap (017), Pavla withdraws her gaze (cf. fig. 2), most likely
632 as the person she has called is now responding to the
633 summons, as shown by her subsequent greeting (019, typically
634 with no self-identification, cf. Arminen/Leinonen 2006).
635   As a topic attrition and possible sequence closing has
636 already been foreshadowed in Jana's prior restarts and
637 reformulations, it is impossible to say if her turn suspension
638 (020) is also linked to the fact that Pavla has now started her
639 phone call. At this point however, Jana and Hana maintain
640 her visible mutual engagement (fig. 2), and Jana's continuation
641 (022-023, projecting more clearly a closing, cf. the figure of
642 speech she is using; "and we'll see what will be", Drew/Holt
643 1998) shows that for the moment, Pavla's simultaneous phone
644 call (021) is not specifically attended to.
645   Pavla's next turn in the phone call (025-026) however
646 occurs at a moment when a next recipient response is due
647 (see Hana's multiple response tokens, 024). Although Pavla
648 has kept monitoring Jana while being on the phone (see her
649 gaze at Jana, 022-023), she now fully engages in the call, also
650 displayed by a higher volume of her voice, probably related
651 to the ongoing repair sequence in the talk (see also her
652 modified repeat in 030). During this turn, the dyad formed by
653 Jana and Hana dissolves their mutual engagement and visibly
654 attends to Pavla's activity: Jana turns her head and gaze in
655 Pavla's direction, a moment later – and precisely timed with
656 the end of Pavla's turn – Hana quickly turns her head and
657 starts looking at Pavla as well (026-027, fig. 3). Both Hana and
658 Jana have stopped talking and are now visibly and audibly
659 attending to the phone call. Hana's reorientation clearly
660 implements a negative assessment of Pavla's phone call
661 activity: the quickness of her gaze reorientation and the
662 straightening of her posture, especially of the neck, display
663 some "surprise" (albeit well-timed with the transition
664 relevance place in 026), and she adopts a facial expression
665 that displays a negative, "disapproving" stance (pulled down
666 corners of her mouth, raised eyebrows, widely opened eyes,
667 held for nearly 2,5 seconds, cf. fig. 3a, a detail of figure 3).
668 Hana then turns her head back in a more relaxed position

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669 (end of 027), audibly sighs (028) and slightly shakes her head
670 (029), thereby expanding her assessment.
671   Jana does not respond to Hana's assessment, but steadily
672 looks in Pavla's direction while maintaining her posture (until
673 036). This frozen posture also has some assessing potential, in
674 any case this augmented monitoring - and not turning back to
675 her prior interlocutor Hana - displays a specific way of
676 waiting (fig. 4). Hana, for her part, exhibits a different way of
677 "doing waiting", as she now starts looking down and adopts a
678 waiting posture (fig. 4). The fact that she quickly glances at
679 Pavla, first when the closing of the call is projected (031), then
680 after the end of the call (032, cf. fig. 5), shows that she is
681 nevertheless monitoring Pavla's activity and not projecting to
682 self-select for a next turn herself.
683   Pavla doesn't seem to have perceived her co-participants'
684 displays regarding her phone call, as she now simply lowers
685 her phone, starts to look at Jana and assesses her phone call
686 (or rather, the called person and the fact that he had
687 previously called her inadvertently) by a headshake, a smile
688 and a sigh (032-033, fig. 5). Although neither Jana nor Hana
689 explicitly formulate or re-initiate their negative assessment,
690 they remain visibly and audibly passive. Jana provides for a
691 minimal and rather mechanical answer, responding to Pavla's
692 previous display just with a hint of a smile and a light
693 headshake (034). Pavla does not respond to this lack of
694 uptake as she is still focused on the call's aftermath; she looks
695 again at her phone and sighs again (034-035, fig. 6, note also
696 her facial expression). She keeps looking at her phone for
697 more than 9 seconds (034-038), while Jana and Hana remain
698 silent and don't look at Pavla (anymore, as also Jana
699 withdraws her gaze in 036).
700   After more than nine seconds that Pavla finally looks up,
701 first to Jana, then to Hana, and initiates a new turn in which
702 she requests her co-participants to speak (039). Interestingly,
703 this turn does neither initiate a new topic (e.g. the content of
704 the phone call) nor does it tie back to the prior topic (Jana's
705 parents and their house), but points to a precise trouble
706 source, i.e. the co-participants' noticeable absence of talk.
707 With this explicit formulation, Pavla displays her
708 understanding of the silence being possibly linked to her
709 previous phone call activity, however without providing an
710 account and taking on responsibility for this silence (see also

her smiling face fig. 7). Both Hana and Jana quickly reorient their gaze to Pavla during this turn (039, fig. 7) and respond immediately afterwards: Jana by laughter (041, 044), Hana with a more explicit account (0042-043), framed as ironic by the initial laughter particles, possible disagreement markers ("well so", 040), and a smiling voice.

It is only at this moment that Pavla seemingly accounts for her phone call, stating that her friend Radek previously called her "by mistake" (045). It should be noted that Pavla does however not account for her choice to call him back immediately, thus again minimizing her responsibility for the reason and timing of her self-initiated phone call. Consequently, this account is not really acknowledged by her co-participants; Hana does not respond, while Jana simply produces a change-of-state token (047). Thus, no explicit acceptance of Pavla's account is produced. Instead, the dispreferred tone of the exchange is kept up, as after a considerable lapse (048) - and late with respect to the trouble source, the proper noun "Radek" – Jana initiates repair concerning this person reference (049), which again is pushing back the acceptance of Pavla's account. The participants will then continue to talk about Radek and not get back to the phone call itself.

This excerpt shows how participants visibly and audibly negotiate the situated (un)acceptability and moral implications (cf. Robles et al. 2018) of mobile device use in co-presence. Putting the phone to one's ear and initiating a phone call by dialling and greeting the called are initially not treated as problematic by the co-present others: Hana and Jana continue on the previous topic and maintain a mutual orientation, treating Pavla's phone call as an acceptable parallel engagement (although, such as in case of parallel conversations, there can be some possible perturbations in turn constructions, l. 020, 022, cf. Egbert 1993). The more and the longer the device use implies talk, the more Hana and Jana treat it as a disturbing parallel engagement. However, the "disturbance" is only visibly attended to and assessed as such after the prior sequence has been brought to a close (see Jana's closing "figure of speech"). This sensitivity to transition relevance places shows that Jana's and Hana's visible reorientation and possible "surprise" are rather staged than displaying actual changes in their cognitive states. But instead

753 of verbally and explicitly treating the phone call as a
754 complainable, both Hana and Jana practice a kind of "silent
755 moralizing", restricting their assessment to mainly visible
756 displays. They thus orient to both a perturbation and Pavla's
757 responsibility of accounting for her use, as both let the
758 opportunity pass to take the turn after the end of the phone
759 call, but continue to monitor Pavla.

760 While the initial simultaneity of talk and phone call have
761 shown that this is not a priori problematic (as participants in
762 multi-party settings can and do routinely focus on ongoing
763 talk despite parallel conversations, e.g. Egbert 1993), the
764 marked suspension of the main activity (conversation in co-
765 presence) is clearly used to display an evaluative stance
766 towards Pavla's mobile device use. It is however not the
767 phone call itself that is negatively assessed, but rather the fact
768 that it is in no way accounted for by Pavla, neither by an
769 announcement sequence, nor by an inserted apology, nor
770 specific embodied conduct (such as turning away from the
771 others or getting up from the sofa). Thus, participants seem to
772 orient to a routine announcement and/or account in case of
773 mobile device use in co-presence, or that participants
774 somehow account for their disengagement from the ongoing
775 focused encounter (which in co-presence is routinely done
776 by explicitly announcing practical next activities such as
777 going to another room or preparing food).

778 **4 Results and discussion**

779 The analysis has illustrated three cases of self-initiated
780 mobile device use in everyday interactions in Czech. As the
781 device uses were not related to prior or ongoing talk, one
782 might expect these uses to lead to a considerable
783 perturbation of the face-to-face encounter. However,
784 participants manage this solitary device use in various ways:
785 participants do not systematically orient to mobile device use
786 as a problem, and they do explicitly relate to it as a problem
787 of accountability (invoking possible social norms) only in
788 specific cases. The analysis of the three excerpts aimed at
789 illustrating a major point: by contrast to what could intuitively
790 be expected, specific types of uses or specific participant
791 constellations do not define a specific degree of "social

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792 problematicity" of mobile device use. Instead, participants
793 assess and manage the solitary device use with respect to
794 different situated relevancies, which allows us to formulate
795 some preferences and overall tendencies (cf. section 1):

796 • the channel or "media" used (call/SMS/internet,
797   audible/visible): if the device use requires the user's
798   visual orientation, users are more likely to verbally
799   frame it;
800 • the topical and sequential fittedness of the device use
801   with respect to ongoing talk: participants orient to
802   sequence endings and transition relevance places for
803   self-initiating their device use, and check beforehand if
804   they are addressed recipients or not;
805 • the participant constellation (dyadic/multi-party): while
806   in dyadic settings, device users might orient to a
807   stronger accountability of the use and seem more
808   inclined to announce and comment on it, in multi-party
809   settings, framing the use is carried out when users
810   perceive that they are monitored;
811 • the opacity of what is done with the device: in general,
812   participants treat the display as opaque for co-
813   participants and their action on-screen as somehow
814   accountable, unless the device use is visibly clear (such
815   as in case of a phone call);
816 • the possible opacity of how the device use is
817   multimodally framed by its user: in absence of explicit
818   or clear announcements by the user, co-participants
819   engage in prolonged monitoring activities in order to
820   evaluate the implicativeness of the device use for the
821   previous/ongoing activity. If they treat the
822   announcement as insufficient or noticeably absent, they
823   can pursue developed accounts from the user and can
824   even engage in "everyday moralizing".

825 This shows that mobile device use in co-presence of others is
826 related to the management of recurrent practical issues in
827 social interaction, such as availability and sequence
828 organization, rather than being an issue of individual "face
829 management" or of generally steady, external moral or
830 politeness standards. A systematic practice that is available to
831 participants for managing independent device use is the

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832 announcement sequence, in which a first pair part formulated
833 by the device user serves to announce the type of activity –
834 and thus the possible suspension of further (joint) talk – and a
835 second pair part by a co-participant that acknowledges the
836 announcement and thus serves as go-ahead response. Mobile
837 device announcement sequences however are no typical pre-
838 announcements: unlike news delivery and informings, they
839 don't seem to project an assessment as next action
840 (Pomerantz 1984, Terasaki 2004), and don't deploy an
841 assessment or an evaluative stance in first position (see also
842 Keel 2011). Announcements of mobile device use remain
843 rather factual regarding the projected activity and do not
844 display a specific evaluative stance. However, they seem to
845 be more ambiguous with respect to the projected response:
846 while a simple acknowledgement could be sufficient,
847 recipients can also provide more elaborate responses that ask
848 for more information about the motivations and content of
849 the actions to be carried out with the mobile device ("why",
850 ex. 1, "with/about what", ex. 2). It is in these expansions that a
851 possible evaluative stance can be displayed by the co-
852 participant and subsequently be responded to by the mobile
853 device user. So, while a simple acknowledgment in second
854 position works as go-ahead and immediately closes the
855 announcement sequence, other types of responses can
856 expand the sequence and possibly delay the announced
857 device use. Consequently, the recipient's response and
858 possibly displayed stance is consequential for how the actual
859 device use is then carried out – as a public, comprehensible
860 and transparent activity (by concurrently glossing the ongoing
861 use, ex. 1), or as a publicly announced, but solitary and private
862 activity (ex. 2).
863   It usually – and unsurprisingly - is the device user who is
864 held responsible for providing an account for the device use.
865 This is shown in ex. 3, in which both co-participants do not
866 formulate explicit pursuits of an account (e.g. Jana's absence
867 of a verbal statement after Pavla has noticed the gap, as well
868 as Hana referring to the silence as means for not disturbing
869 Pavla's call). As a consequence, both co-participants leave the
870 recognition of being solely accountable up to the device user
871 Pavla. The fact that the pursuit of an account occurs only
872 after a possible sequence closing – which up to this point had
873 been developed simultaneously with the phone call – shows

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874 that it is not the phone call as such that is treated as
875 problematic, but rather the absence of any announcement of
876 the parallel device use - and thus the absence of a structured
877 and jointly negotiated withdrawal from the previously
878 established participation framework. Consequently, while the
879 announcement sequence appears to be a systematic practice
880 for managing self-initiated phone use in co-presence, its
881 absence does not automatically imply that the mobile device
882 use will be critically received by the co-participants.
883 However, the absence of an announcement sequence might
884 lead to other practical problems (e.g. such as a lack of public
885 recognizability of the boundaries between different
886 communication involvements). The difference between the
887 presence or absence of an announcement sequence cannot
888 be discussed in this contribution; suffice it to say that in both
889 cases the device use has a certain impact on the overall
890 progressivity of the face-to-face interaction. Knowing if
891 participants have already developed other routine practices
892 for specifically managing the double involvement of talk and
893 mobile device use (such as the announcement sequence, and
894 similar to certain professional multiactivity practices, cf.
895 Mondada 2014, Suderland this issue, section 5.) requires
896 further examples and detailed multimodal investigations of
897 the systematics of mobile device use in face-to-face
898 interaction.

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Discussion Paper