



invites everyone to a **talk** by

**prof. Joanna Pawelczyk**

Department of Sociolinguistics  
and Discourse Studies

on

**These small, petite women breaking  
into that little frat boy system:  
Membership categorization analysis  
and ‘doing gender’ in the context of  
interviews with American women  
soldiers.**

**Abstract:**

This talk introduces, practically applies and problematizes membership categorization analysis (MCA) as one of the methods for examining the construction of gender in interaction (cf. Wovk 1984; Stokoe 2010). With its origins in ethnomethodology, MCA adopts the participant's perspective to demonstrate how speakers *do gender* in discourse, i.e., “invoke, produce, propose and sustain commonsense knowledge about gender categories” (Stokoe 2012: 233) but also actively resist and challenge them.

MCA will be contrasted with the studies of gender construction in discourse which predominately utilize a model of indexicality (Ochs 1992) to explicate how femininities and masculinities are interactionally performed.

The practical application of MCA will be demonstrated on a corpus of American women soldiers' interviews (audio- or videotaped) conducted by volunteers for the *Veterans History Project* run by the Library of Congress. The analysis will show how ‘gender’ interactionally emerges as a salient category for interview participants as well as how MCA and indexicality model can be (successfully) combined to uncover gendered discourses.

**Wednesday, 20th March, 6.30 p.m.  
Room 101A.**