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Beyond discourse and the subject: three classic features of the interaction order

During the course of this paper, I examine the concepts of 'discourse' and the 'subject' in relation to social organization and action. The paper argues that these concepts represent a form of explanation that reduces the complexity of the social. Through a reconnection with processes relating to social organization and action, the paper argues that the current 'deepening' of subjectivity can be informed by sociological ideas. In more specific terms, the paper makes the claim that moves to develop the concept of subjectivity through 'interiority' and 'relationality' would benefit from a dialogue with ethnomethodological and interactionist concepts and studies. The paper discusses three programmes of work that forms a basis from which contemporary concepts of subjectivity can be reconsidered. I conclude by reflecting on whether such classic features of interaction order represent revitalising avenues for future empirical work.