

Courtroom audio recordings and animating affect: Parents' reports to attorneys in child custody disputes

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This presentation builds on authentic audios from courtroom examinations of parents, interacting with their own attorneys versus the attorneys of the opponent side. The child is not heard or seen during these examinations, but is recurrently made "visible" in courtroom co-narration. One conversational resource is parents' *reported speech*, particularly reports about children's crying, protests or strong feeling – animating the child's views – and another resource is *reported affects* (Ingrids & Aronsson, 2014), as in reported expressions of fear or anger. These animated reports about affects are delicately coordinated with embodied descriptions of the other party's contested actions.

During the courtroom examinations, hostility is co-construed by attorneys and parents in highly orderly ways (Aronsson, 2018). One conversational resource, deployed by opponent side attorneys is the *negative interrogative* (Heritage, 2002; e.g. 'So you won't let your children see their grandma?').

Information technology at times appears to amplify courtroom hostility and children's mobile phone usage recurrently involves *contested connectedness* (Sjöblom, Franzén & Aronsson, 2018), as in reports of surveillance by the other side parent or when the mobile has legitimized problematic childcare arrangements. In parents' blame accounts, information technology becomes a tool where children are to monitor conflicts that neither the couple nor the court have been able to handle.

In brief, the audio recordings reveal a number of ways in which litigating parents report embodied actions and affects, fuelled by and fuelling ongoing disputes.

Aronsson, K. (2018 ; in press) Negative interrogatives and adversarial uptake: Building hostility in child custody examinations (*Journal of Pragmatics*)

Ingrids, H., & Aronsson, K. (2014). Reported speech and reported affect in child custody disputes. *Research on Language and Social Interaction*, 47, 69-88.

Sjöblom, B., Franzén, A., & Aronsson, K. (2018; online). Contested connectedness in child custody narratives: Mobile phones and children's rights and responsibilities, *New Media & Society*, DOI:10.1177/1461444818761015