



Call for Workshop Papers

On the Development of Ethnographic Organization Studies: Towards New Objects of Concern

A One-Day Workshop, Wednesday November 23rd, 2016 University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

Sponsored by *Organization* and the *Manchester Ethnography Network*

Organizers:

Damian O'Doherty
University of Manchester

Daniel Neyland
Goldsmiths, University of London

Barbara Czarniawska
University of Gottenburg

Ethnography as an approach to management and organization studies is growing in popularity, as documented by the recent publication of new journals, important research monographs, and edited collections. Also, in recent years ethnographic approaches have undergone significant transformation that takes them far beyond the traditional anthropological approaches that were popular in management and organization studies in the 1980s. These changes have been most visible in business anthropology, science and technology studies, the social studies of markets and finance, and in studies of digital technologies and information systems. However, we have still yet to see a significant breakthrough in the way in which ethnography is practiced and written in management and organization studies.

In this workshop, we are particularly interested in ethnographies that are tackling what we call 'new objects of concern'. What can ethnographies do to enhance our understanding of things like algorithms, animals, military drones, plutonium, risk, robots, soil, and water, to name just a few candidates? Within mainstream approaches these objects of concern might appear exotic or even insignificant. To us, they seem to be portents of a new era. This is why it is important to explore the ways in which the arbitrary might become the rule, or the ways in which the

traditional dualisms of the social sciences – macro/micro, global/local, structure/agent – become unsettled and redrawn, or even inverted and displaced under the influence of these objects of concern. In tracing the genealogy and effects of these new objects of concern we may discover new ontologies of organization on the horizon – or are they here already, but still unseen within the dominant disciplining of the subject and its managerial practices?

There is a need to find ways of tackling the ‘big issues’ in ways that might renew and extend repertoires of political action and intervention. What is the organization of global warming, of ‘globalization’, the break - up of the modern nation state, ‘states of terror and emergency’, virtual and post - human ontologies, artificial intelligence, and augmented realities?

Submission Registration for the Workshop is based on sending one of two types of submission to the organizers by September 30, 2016. These are:

1. A Short Paper of about 2000 words. Papers should address the workshop theme outlined in the call above and set out an idea for development into a full length paper for possible publication in the upcoming Special Issue of Organization:

(http://org.sagepub.com/site/CFPs/CFP_Ethnography%20Special%20issue_ORG.pdf). Papers will be reviewed by the workshop organizers. their presentation will structure the day's discussions.

2. An Expression of Interest (Eoi) of around 500 words from colleagues who would like to participate as discussants at the workshop (PhD students are particularly welcome). An Eoi should include an outline of what you as a participant would bring to the discussion and your topics of interest. The Eois will help the organizers structure the discussion on the day. Eois will not be peer reviewed.

Please send submissions by September 31st, via email, to Damian O’Doherty, damian.odoherty@mbs.ac.uk and copy the email to: d.neyland@gold.ac.uk and barbara.czarniawska@gri.gu.se

There is no registration fee for the workshop. Transport costs and catering on the day will be covered by the journal *Organization* and the *Manchester Ethnography Network* at the University of Manchester.

References

BENNETT, J. (2009). *Vibrant matter: A political ecology of things*. Duke University Press.

BOELLERSTOFF, T. (2008). *Coming of Age in Second Life: An Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

COOLE, D., & FROST, S. (Eds.). (2010). *New materialisms*. Duke University Press Books.

COOPER, R., & BURRELL, G. (1988). ‘Modernism, postmodernism and organizational analysis: An introduction’. *Organization studies*, 9 (1), 91 -112.

CZARNIAWSKA, B. (2012) ‘Organization theory meets anthropology: a story of an encounter’. *Journal of Business Anthropology*, 1(1), pp.118-140.

- GARSTEN, C., & NYQVIST, A. (2013) (eds.). *Organisational anthropology: doing ethnography in and among complex organisations*. London: Pluto Press.
- KOHN, E. (2013). *How forests think: toward an anthropology beyond the human*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- KOSTERA, M. (2007). *Organizational ethnography: Methods and inspirations*. Studentlitteratur, Lund.
- LAW, J. (2004). *After method: mess in social science research*. London, Routledge.
- LURY, C., PARISI, L., & TERRANOVA, T. (2012). Introduction: The becoming topological of culture. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 29(4-5), 3-35.
- MAURER, B. (2005). *Mutual life, limited: Islamic banking, alternative currencies, lateral reason*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press.
- MOL, A. (2002). *The body multiple: ontology in medical practice*. Durham, Duke University Press.
- NEYLAND, D. (2007). *Organizational ethnography*. London: Sage.
- O'DOHERTY, D. (2016) *Reconstructing Organization: The 'Loungification' of Society*. Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan
- PARKER, M. (1995). Critique in the name of what? Postmodernism and critical approaches to organization. *Organization studies*, 16(4), 553-564.
- RILES, A. (2001). *The network inside out*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press.
- VAN MAANEN, J. (2011). 'Ethnography as work: Some rules of engagement'. *Journal of Management Studies*, 48 (1), 218-234.
- WATSON, T. J. (2011). 'Ethnography, reality, and truth: the vital need for studies of 'how things work' in organizations and management'. *Journal of Management Studies*, 48 (1), 202 -217.
- YBEMA, S., YANOW, D., WELS, H., & KAMSTEEG, F. H. (Eds.). (2009). *Organizational ethnography: Studying the complexity of everyday life*. London: Sage.