

7th Organization Studies Summer Workshop

Organizations as Spaces of Work
24-26 May 2012,
Rhodes, Greece

<http://www.os-workshop.com>

Conveners:

Rick Delbridge, Cardiff Business School

Jeff Sallaz, University of Arizona, Department of Sociology

Ofer Sharone, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management

Keynote Speakers:

Ching Kwan Lee, University of California at Los Angeles, Department of Sociology

Catherine Paradeise Université Paris Est- LATTIS and IFRIS

Steven Vallas, Northeastern University, Department of Sociology

The *Organization Studies* Workshop is an annual activity, originally launched in June 2005, to facilitate high-quality scholarship in organization studies. Its primary aim is to advance cutting-edge research on important topics in the field by bringing together a small and competitively selected group of scholars, who will have the opportunity to interact in depth and share insights in a stimulating and scenic environment. From 2010 on, the OS Workshop will be sponsored by Sage in order to help attracting talented scholars from diverse regions of the world, following on editorial purposes of *Organization Studies* (Courpasson, Arellano-Gault, Brown and Lounsbury 2008).

Overview

Organizations remain, at their core, spaces in which men and women engage in various forms of work. Much scholarly attention has been focused upon recent, major changes in the structure of organizations and organizational fields. The firm of the twenty-first century is supposed to be less bureaucratic, more reliant upon network structures of organization, and more globally integrated. This call for papers invites submissions that seek to advance our understanding of how these epochal shifts have affected or transformed the worlds of work inside organizations. Our primary interest is in the relationships between such shifts and the microprocesses of work content which inform what organizations are and may become. We are thus interested in both (1) papers that embody the classic sociological spirit of fine-grained analysis of individual work-spaces (for example, the studies of Donald Roy, Alvin Gouldner, Michel Crozier, Rosabeth Kanter, etc.), and (2) papers exploring new organizational spaces within which work occurs (such as temporary agencies, collaborative network structures, informal labor markets, and so on). Papers written from empirical and/or theoretical perspectives are welcome.

Linking fields and traditions

The goal of this workshop is to facilitate discussion among scholars across different disciplines, all of whom share a common interest in understanding the contours of contemporary work-worlds. Papers are welcome from the fields of sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, industrial relations, management, policy, and others. We are especially interested to receive papers which adopt a global and/or comparative approach (though this is not a requirement). A special edition of the journal *Organization Studies* will be dedicated to publishing selected papers from the workshop.

Possible but not exhaustive topic list

What follows is a list of topics that could be addressed. The list is not in any way exhaustive, but rather is meant to give a flavor of the range of possibilities:

* **Labor processes:** For example, the concrete organization of work practices within modern organizations; interpersonal relations at the point of production; interactions between humans and material artifacts.

* **Resistance and subversion in the workplace:** For example, how structures of power are constituted and resisted by organizational workers; the relationship between the nature of the resistance and the organization of work; the conditions under which resistance contributes to change or to the reproduction of power and inequality.

* **Increasing diversity at work:** For example, in contexts where diversity and civil rights are ascendant as regimes of regulation, how are various employee rights policies implemented and/or subverted; the impact of employer efforts at increasing diversity and reducing disadvantage within organization.

* **Expert and knowledge work within organizations:** For example, how work is organized when the raw materials are immaterial forms of expertise and thought; how do knowledge workers coordinate their work across organizational and occupational boundaries?

* **Work in 'informal' organized spaces:** For example, how is work structured in organizational contexts that lie beyond the official purview of state regulation; the production of value and order in such contexts.

* **Gender and occupations:** What are the mechanisms of gender segregation across occupations? How do organizational structures and cultures create frameworks within which workers reproduce or transform traditional gendered divisions at work?

* **Occupations/Professions and Organizations:** How are occupational jurisdictions over particular areas of work challenged and defended inside organizations? How do organizations endeavor to align occupational work practices with organizational ones and how and when do occupational workers accept or resist these attempts?

We emphasize that the above list is not meant to be exhaustive but to provide examples of possible paper topics that explore the intersection of work and organizations.

Administrative support & queries

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Location

The 7th OS Workshop will take place at the Elysium Resort & Spa (www.elysium.gr), in the island of Rhodes (www.rodosislandinfo.gr, www.holiday.gr), Greece, on **24-26 May 2012**.

Dates

Starting on Thursday 24 May 2012 at 09:00
Ending on Saturday 26 May 2012 at 18:00

Submission

Interested participants must submit to sofficer@gmail.com an abstract of no more than 1,000 words for their proposed contribution by December 12th, 2011 indicating on the subject line: 7th Organizations Studies Workshop. The proposal must be submitted as an email attachment (doc. or .rtf) and should contain authors' names, institutional affiliations, email and postal address. Authors will be notified of acceptance or otherwise by January 15th, 2012. Full papers must be submitted by April 20th 2012. Further details on the venue of the workshop will be published through the OS Workshop website (<http://www.os-workshop.com>).

Following the workshop, a Special Issue will be announced in *Organization Studies*. To be considered for publication, papers must be electronically received by November 30th 2012. The latest guidelines for submission and information on the review procedures can be found on the SAGE OS web page (<http://oss.sagepub.com/>). Participation in the Workshop is not a prerequisite to submit a paper for the special issue.

References

David Courpasson, David Arellano-Gault, Andrew Brown and Michael Lounsbury, 2008
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