

EGOS Colloquium 2019 Edinburgh: Preliminary Call for Papers

ROUTINE DYNAMICS: PERFORMING NEW WAYS OF ORGANIZING (SWG 06)

Luciana D'Adderio, Strathclyde Business School, UK, luciana.d-adderio@strath.ac.uk

Brian Pentland, Michigan State University, USA, pentlan2@msu.edu

Waldemar Kremser, Radboud University, NL, w.kremser@fm.ru.nl

The aim of this sub-theme is to advance our understanding of how new forms of materiality influence organizational practices or routines and their outcomes. We start from the observation that recent trends in technology and innovation, including digital tools and infrastructures, are reconfiguring organizations and their wider ecosystems by affording radical new ways of organizing. No longer restricted by the domain of physical, visible and durable materials and infrastructures, recent innovations are often invisibly spreading across each and every aspect of our work and our lives (Yoo et al. 2012, Faraj et al. 2018).

Social Media, Big Data and Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, 3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing, are reshaping practices in every sector of the economy with fundamental implications for innovation, growth and productivity. The implications for society are just as great, including consequences for the development of competences and skills, access to resources and services, inclusion or exclusion from socio-economic and political activities. Within and across organizational contexts, these new forms of materiality are transforming virtual and physical interactions and workplace practices, automating creative and innovative activities, and substituting algorithms for human actors in knowledge work (Orlikowski & Scott 2016) including decision-making and diagnostics.

We are thus witnessing the emergence of new approaches to designing practices/routines (D'Adderio 2008, Pentland and Feldman 2008, Glaser 2017) and organizations (Puranam et al. 2014) which exploit digital advances to generate, at least in principle, more transparent, distributed and flexible forms of organizing - including networks and platforms, agile and open organizations. It is already clear, at this stage, that the theoretical and methodological tools we rely on to analyse and understand the implications for practices, organizations and beyond are all but blunt instruments unable to fully capture the complexities of the challenges confronting us (Ferraro et al. 2015, George et al. 2016).

This is where the field of Routine Dynamics (Feldman et al. 2016) becomes particularly useful and promising. By routine dynamics (RD) we mean the processes through which organizational routines form and change (or resist change) over time. Recent contributions in RD have begun to address how materiality (e.g. artifacts and technology, and their embedded

assumptions) are performed within and across practices and routines (D'Adderio 2014, Carlile et al. 2013), ultimately bearing substantial implications for organizational change and stability. Methodologies inspired by new epistemological and ontological sensitivities (Feldman & Orlikowski 2011, Pentland et al. 2011, Jones 2014, Nicolini 2016), are now required to address the emergent challenges by theorizing practices and routines in increasingly complex, distributed and materially-mediated domains. Topics include:

Innovation, Creativity and Change. Which ways of organizing are emerging as a consequence of change and innovation? How do organizations configure their routines to respond to change in innovative settings (Cohendet & Simon 2016, Salvato & Rerup 2018)?

Technology, Artifacts and Materiality. How are new forms of materiality shaping practices and routines in traditional and new organizational settings? How do we capture and study materiality in the age of the algorithm? Which new methods/approaches do we require?

Networks, Platforms and Ecologies. How do (digital) technologies shape distributed organizational dynamics? What is the nexus between notions of platforms and ecologies or networks of routines?

Agility, Flexibility and Automation. Are new forms of organization more or less routine than more traditional organizations? What is the role of routinization in agility? What kinds of automation are emerging and how can they be captured through the lens of routines?

Temporality, Timing and Rhythm. What time scales are relevant for new forms of organizing? What role do temporal phenomena like entrainment play in new forms of organizing? How is temporality performed in and through technology?

Transparency, Responsibility and Accountability. What are the consequences of new technologies for process transparency? How can a focus on practices and routines help us capture the effects of new forms of materiality on work and organizational communities?

References

- Carlile, P., Nicolini, D., Langley, A. Tsoukas, H. eds. (2013) *How Matter Matters: Objects, Artifacts, and Materiality in Organization Studies*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Cohendet P., Simon L. (2016). Always Playable: Recombining routines for creative efficiency at Montreal Ubisoft's video game development studio. *Organ. Sci.* **27**(3).
- D'Adderio, L. (2008). The Performativity of Routines: Theorising the Influence of Artefacts and Distributed Agencies on Routines Dynamics. *Res. Policy* **37**(5) 769-789.
- D'Adderio, L. (2014). The Replication Dilemma Unravelling: How Organizations Enact Multiple Goals in Routines Transfer. *Organ. Sci.* **25**(5): 1325-1350.

- Faraj S., Pachidi S., Sayegh K. (2018). Working and organizing in the age of the learning algorithm. *Inform. Organ.* **28**(1) 62-70.
- Feldman M., Orlikowski W. (2011). Theorizing Practice and Practicing Theory. *Organ. Sci.* **22** (5) 1240-1253.
- Feldman, M.S., Pentland, B.T., D'Adderio, L., Lazaric, N. (2016). Beyond routines as things: Introduction to the special issue on routine dynamics. *Organ. Sci.* **27**(3) 505-513.
- Ferraro, F., Etzion, D., Gehman, J. (2015). Tackling grand challenges pragmatically: robust action revisited. *Organ. Studies*, **36**, 363-390.
- George, G., Howard-Grenville, J., Joshi, A., Tihanyi, L. (2016). Understanding and tackling grand challenges through management research. *Acad. Management J.* **59**(6) 1880-1895.
- Glaser, V. (2017). 'Design Performances. How Organizations Inscribe Artifacts to Change Routines'. *Acad. Management J.* **60** (6) 2126-2154.
- Jones M. (2014). A Matter of Life and Death: Exploring Conceptualizations of Sociomateriality in the Context of Critical Care. *MIS Quart.* **38**(3) 895-925.
- Nicolini, D. (2016). Is small the only beautiful? Making sense of 'large phenomena' from a practice-based perspective. In: Hui, A., Schatzki, T., Shove, E., (eds.) *The Nexus of Practices Connections: constellations, practitioners*. London; New York: Routledge, pp. 98-113.
- Orlikowski, W., Scott S. (2016). Digital Work: A Research Agenda. In: A Research Agenda for Management and Organization Studies. Ed. Barbara Czarniawska. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2016. 88-96.
- Yoo, Y., Boland R.J., Lyytinen, K., Majchrzak, A. (2012). Organizing for Innovation in the Digitized World. *Organ. Sci.* **23**(5) 1398-1408.
- Pentland B.T., M.S. Feldman (2008). Designing routines: On the folly of designing artifacts, while hoping for patterns of action. *Inform. Organ.* **18**(4) 235-250.
- Pentland, BT, T. Haerem, D. Hillison (2011). Comparing Organizational Routines as Recurrent Patterns of action. *Organ. Studies* **31**(7) 917-940.
- Puranam, P., Alexy, O. and Reitzig, M. (2014). 'What's "New" About New Forms of Organizing?' *Acad. Management Rev.* **39** (2) 162-180.
- Salvato, C., C. Rerup 2018. Routine Regulation: Balancing Conflicting Goals in Organizational Routines. *Admin. Sci. Quart.* **63**(1) 170-209.

Coordinators biographies

Luciana D'Adderio is Reader in Management (Senior Associate Professor) at Strathclyde Business School. Her research focuses on the micro dynamics of organizational practices and routines, with an emphasis on the role of agency and materiality on their emergence, evolution and maintenance, codification, transfer and replication. Luciana served as a Senior Editor for the Special Issue of Organization Science on 'Routine Dynamics'.

Brian T. Pentland is the Main Street Capital Partners Endowed Professor in the Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. His creative work has appeared in Academy of Management Review, Administrative Science Quarterly, Journal of Management Studies, Management Science, MIS Quarterly, Organization Science, Organization Studies, YouTube and elsewhere.

Waldemar Kremser is Assistant Professor in the Institute for Management Research at Radboud University. In his research, he is combining a practice-perspective on routines and their endogenous dynamics with insights from complexity theory and organization design. His work on the intersection of routine interdependence and organization design has appeared in Organization Science.