

Workshop “Meta-, Macro-, and Partial Organization: Advances in Research and Theory”, Toulouse School of Management, May 13-14, 2019

Call for Papers

Recent assessments see organization theory in a deep crisis. While the worldwide number of organizations as well as their relevance for nearly every area of modern society has been growing rapidly (Bromley & Meyer, 2015; Perrow, 1991), the scholarly interest in organizations as the unit of analysis is in decline (Ahrne, Brunsson, & Seidl, 2016). Moreover, “organizations are morphing furiously into new forms” (Barley, 2016) and established theories are increasingly unable to grasp empirical reality (Davis, 2015). To counteract this development, Ahrne and Brunsson (2011) suggested to put decisions back to the core of organization theory by declaring decisions the fundamental aspect of organization. In a series of works building on this common ground, they and others proposed to expand organization theory (Ahrne & Brunsson, Forthcoming; Ahrne et al., 2016; Ahrne, Brunsson, & Seidl, 2017) by combining the classical notion of formal organization with the notions of meta-organization (i.e. an organization that has organizations as its members; Ahrne & Brunsson, 2008; Berkowitz & Bor, 2018), partial organization (i.e. certain decided types of social order that can be seen as organizational; Ahrne & Brunsson, 2011), and macro-organization (i.e. completely organized sets of organizations and meta-organizations that do not constitute a formal organization; Brunsson, Gustafsson, & Hallström, 2018).

With their work, Ahrne, Brunsson, and colleagues laid the ground for a new understanding of a broad variety of modern organizational phenomena and their manifold facets – thereby offering a way out of organization theory’s existential crisis (Apelt et al., 2017). Building on this ground, scholars have, for instance, started inquiring a broad variety of phenomena such as Corporate Social Responsibility (Berkowitz, Bucheli, & Dumez, 2017; Rasche, Bakker, & Moon, 2013), social movements (den Hond, de Bakker, & Doh, 2015; Karlberg & Jacobsson, 2015), markets (Ahrne, Aspers, & Brunsson, 2015), crowdfunding (Berkowitz & Souchaud, 2017; Nielsen, 2018), coopetition (Azzam & Berkowitz, 2018), sustainability (Valente & Oliver, 2018), organization without actorhood (Grothe-Hammer, 2018), partnerships (Cropper & Bor, 2018) or the European Union (Kerwer, 2013; Murdoch, 2015).

The workshop on “Meta-, macro-, and partial organization” wants to embrace and advance this line of work. It is intended to bring together these related but so far way too often separated debates on formal, partial, and meta-organization – since these share a common conceptual basis.

We welcome submissions on aspects of meta-organization and/or partial organization and/or an integration of both. Submissions that address one of the mentioned concepts are as welcome as combined efforts. They can be theoretical, empirical, or methodological in nature.

We look forward to receiving submissions by experienced as well as early career scholars, and to an intensive and fruitful discussion during the workshop. Participants are expected to be present throughout the workshop and actively contribute to the discussions.

The deadline of submissions of extended abstracts (3-7 pages) is February 15th, 2019. Submissions must be sent to mmporganizations@gmail.com Notification of acceptance is sent out no later than February 28th, 2019.

In case of acceptance, a revised paper or paper draft (10-25 pages) must be sent by April 22nd, 2019, for distribution among workshop participants. By submitting a paper, the submitters also agree on commenting on at least one other paper during the workshop.

The workshop will be held at the Toulouse School of Management (TSM) during May 13 & 14, 2019. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the workshop organizers Héloïse Berkowitz (heloise.berkowitz@tsm-education.fr) and Michael Grothe-Hammer (mgh@hsu-hh.de).

Best meta-organization related manuscripts will be encouraged to apply to an upcoming Special Issue of M@n@gement (<http://www.management-aims.com/>). More information on the call to come.

Don't forget to tweet using the #MMPorganizing and #metaorganization

Scientific committee:

Göran Ahrne (Stockholm University), Héloïse Berkowitz (CNRS TSM-Research), Sanne Bor (Hanken School of Economics), Frank den Hond (Hanken School of Economics), Michael Grothe-Hammer (Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg), Stefan Kirchner (Technische Universität Berlin), Dennis Schoeneborn (Copenhagen Business School), David Seidl (University of Zurich), Mikaela Sundberg (Stockholm University)

Partners of the workshop



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