7th Organizations, Artifacts and Practices (OAP) Workshop

(OAP 2017)

Collaboration and Materiality:

New places, communities and practices of the

collaborative economy

June 17th-18th 2017

ESSEC and SMU

Singapore

In partnership with PSL-Université Paris-
Dauphine, LUISS & the King's College London

Co-chairs:

Marie-Léandre Gomez
(ESSEC)
Philippe Lorino
(ESSEC)
Julien Malaurent
(ESSEC)
Ted Feichin Tschang
(SMU)

François-Xavier de Vaujany
(PSL-Université Paris-Dauphine)
Nathalie Mitev
(King's College London)
Yesh Nama
(King's College London)

Objectives

The first OAP workshop was launched in May of 2011 at Université Paris-Dauphine with the goal of facilitating discussions among scholars from various disciplines (e.g. management, anthropology, sociology, organization studies, ergonomics, philosophy, psychology…) who collectively share an interest in **Science and Technology Studies (STS**) in the context of organization and organizing. OAP deals with topics such as Ontologies, Materiality, Technology, Practices, Sociomateriality, Performativity, Iconography, Process, Time, Space, Legitimacy, Symbolic artifacts and Managerial Techniques in the context of organization and organizing. It draws on various theoretical perspectives (phenomenology, pragmatism, institutionalism, design, post-Marxism, critical realism, among others).

OAP 2017, the seventh session of OAP workshops, will concentrate on the subject of **collaboration and materiality,** or to put it differently how 'matter matters' (Carlile & Langley, 2013) in the context of collaboration. In what follows, we introduce possible themes and topics of interest.

Today's social life is characterized by increasing collaborations and/or networks within and between organizations involving a large number of stakeholders with different profiles and different interests and intensions. **More and more, with the so-called 'end of waged employment', a high number of individuals (independent workers) are involved in complex and fluid collaborations, depending on market demand. Collaborations and networks appear as collective responses to address transversal questions that people face in distributed environments.** One difficult issue for such heterogeneous and distributed networks/collaborations concerns their ability to maintain their own dynamics of coherent and accepted collective action and teleology. In particular, it requires the setup of common spaces (physical or virtual) and timeslots (synchronous or not) for collaborative work. And due to the nature of the collective - i.e. bringing together individuals and objects from different institutions, organizations and (potentially) distant geographic locations - those spatial and temporal domains are not given a priori. In this context, a growing number of possibilities and themes have arisen/emerged, in particular the three following ones:

- New forms of projects: projects are growingly global, and with an increased complexity. More and more, projects involve distributed actors, and open logics. Projects have no clear temporal and spatial boundaries they involve open communities, focus on ever evolving products, and result in open innovations). This involves collaborative modalities, materializations, mediations, which probably depart from those of the eighties or even nineties;

- **The emergence of third places in the context of the collaborative economy**: in contrast to first places (home) and second places (work), third places "host the regular, voluntary, informal, and happily anticipated gatherings of individuals beyond the realms of home and work." (Oldenburg, 2001, p.17). These third places are now occupying a central role in the organizing process of some collectives. These places can be public spaces, beer gardens, main streets, pubs, cafés, coffeehouses, post offices, but also fab labs, maker spaces, hacker spaces and any other kind of co-working place.

Such places are in certain circumstances becoming the heart of a community's social vitality. They are the places, times and spaces at the heart of the emerging collaborative economy, i.e. a new market logic expected to be based on gift-counter-gifts, horizontal collaboration and value-co-creation. Critical perspectives about theses discourses and practices are welcome.

- **Exploring digital materiality and digital affordance:** coined by Gibson (1977), the concept of affordance is based on the assumption that what may principally matter about an artifact is not what it's made out of, but what it affords people to do. Therefore, digital materiality suggests considering digital artifacts (i.e. software, virtual meeting rooms, etc.) as important as material artifacts in the organizing processes. We believe that this new interpretation of materiality opens new avenues for approaching the concept of collaboration and materiality in a context where collaboration is often asynchronous, and distributed among different geographical areas, and time zones. The stakes of digital materiality could also be explored in the development of the collaborative economy, where digital platforms such as Amazon, YouTube, AppStore, TripAdvisor, play a key role.

This workshop will aim at shedding light on the following topics, among others:

- Comprehensive studies of the **new forms of collaborations**: what are the specificities of the new forms of projects, third places and public spaces? What are the new materializations or mediations involved? How do these new organizations emerge in time and space?

- To which extent do these collaborations affect **workers' identity**? Do they modify hierarchies, power relationships?

- **How do actors make sense of these collaborations and their material entanglement?** How do actors develop new forms of collective, embodied, sensemaking through digitalization, new artifacts and spaces?

- **Exploration of material practices and processes related to learning, creativity and innovation:** What type of learning and knowledge dynamics are developed through these new forms of collaborations? Do co-working spaces, fab labs, BYOD, maker spaces, hacker spaces create new conditions for collaborative innovation? To which extent do they favor creativity?

- **New work practices (generalization of entrepreneurship, end of work, coworking, cohoming, digital nomads, DIY…) and their impact on collaboration**: how does working at home impact collaboration? What are the socio-temporal consequences of working at home? How do new forms of mobility affect work and collaboration?

- Beyond digital platforms, we are also particularly interested in papers emphasizing **the role and possible return) of communities in the context of the sharing and collaborative economies**.

Of course, OAP 2017 will also be open to more general contributions about Science and Technology studies, ontologies, sociomateriality, organizational sensemaking mediated by technological or material artefacts, anthropology of technology or more general theoretical and empirical work about materialization and performativity processes in organizations and organizing.

Submission to OAP 2017

Submission can be done at the following address via easychair: https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=oap2017

Deadline for submissions is 27th January 2017, 00.00 (CET).

Administrative support & queries

WorkshopOAP@gmail.com

Location and registration

June, 16th: 3rd meeting of OAP Standing Group (at SMU campus)

June, 17th-18th: 7th OAP workshop (at ESSEC campus)

There are no fees associated with attending this workshop.

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KING'S College LONDON

DAUPHINE UNIVERSITÉ PARIS

LUISS Guido Carli
LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI STUDI SOCIALI

SMU SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY