INTERCONNECTING THE PRACTICE TURN AND COMMUNICATIVE APPROACH TO ORGANIZING.
A NEW CHALLENGE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION?

Call for Papers – Special Issue of *M@n@gement*

Special Issue Guest editors

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Deadline: 30th September 2016

In this special issue, we want to advance knowledge on collective action – one of the most challenging issues for contemporary business and organizations – by inviting theoretical and empirical contributions at the intersection between the practice turn (Schatzki, Knorr-Cetina and Von Savigny, 2001; Rouleau, 2013) and communicative approaches to organizing (Putnam and Nicotera, 2008; Cooren, 2010).

Scholars from various disciplines (e.g., sociology, management, psychology, communication, economics and ergonomic studies) have long been interested in the ongoing transformation and enactment of collective action at work in relation to wider organizational transformations. Interpretive (Putnam and Pacanowsky, 1983) or process theories (Tsoukas and Chia, 2002) have proposed to see collective (or co-oriented) action as relying upon heedful care for mutual interdependencies (Weick and Roberts, 1993) rather than on the establishment of shared organizational knowledge or culture. Current trends of thought put forward that collective action is nowadays more than ever a distributed and hybrid performance, a polyphonic dance of human and non-human agency (Latour, 1996; Cooren, 2010). How can this diversity of practices across time and space achieve unity of discourse? How can multiple voices become the one voice of the organization (Taylor and Cooren, 1997), thus doing the same thing while remaining different? This is what collective action is about in modern organizing: something in between situated communities of practice (Brown and Duguid, 2002) and dislocated communicational processes (Taylor and Van Every, 1993; Fauré and Arnaud, 2014).

This call for papers suggests exploring further the hypothesis according to which collective action is about how people work within a social and organizational setting to construct and mobilize interests and resources as well as about how people create the conditions under which social action occurs (Quinn and Worline, 2008). As such, collective action can be seen as the capacity of a collective to generate a performance by constantly producing and reproducing the meaning of its action, in a singular situation that mobilizes cultural and historical experience leading to a collective competence (Arnaud and Mills, 2012).

The special issue aims at extending our knowledge about production, support and transformation of collective action by studying it from the dual perspective of practice theory and

organizational communication. We thus encourage authors to develop further our understanding of collective action by relying both on the concepts of practice and communication. We are especially interested in contributions that solicit empirically grounded reflections on collective action and that document the concrete and practical conditions for the existence of collective action across time and space.

Contributions to this special issue might cover some of the following indicative, but not exhaustive, issues:

- What practices support conversational dynamics (Mengis and Eppler, 2008)? Which HR practices and systems (evaluation policies, pay, even career management) support collective action (Detchessahar, 2003; Llewellyn and Spence, 2009)?
- How can we understand collective action at the interface of teams and organizations (Arnaud and Mills, 2012)?
- How are discursive struggles realized? How can coherence between different levels of an organization be built (Vaara, 2010)?
- How does the identity of practitioners affect their practices and/or conversations? How does the legitimacy of practices develop (Johnson, Balogun and Beech, 2010; Vaara and Whittington, 2012)?
- How can we analyze the continuous spatiotemporal dislocation-restructuring that characterizes organizations today (Le Moënne, 2004; Taylor and Van Every, 1993; Boje, 2001)? Which conversation-text dynamics make these dislocated organizations (Cooren and Fairhurst, 2004) coherent?
- Today, everything is digitized and communicated faster and farther than ever, but can we truly say that management practices are breaking new ground? What is the role of human arbitrage in an increasingly artifactual world (Cooren, 2010; Vaara and Whittington, 2012)?
- Which communicative practices are developed and enacted during accounting, budgeting, costing processes and what is constituted, organizationally speaking, through these practices (Michaud, 2014; Whittington, 2011; Fauré and Rouleau, 2011)?

Process and Deadline

Deadline: Papers must be received by **September 30th, 2016**

Papers for the special issue should be prepared according to M@n@gement's guidelines for authors (http://www.management-aims.com/submission_en.html) and must be submitted to the online submission system of M@n@gement, **before September 30th, 2016**
http://aims.bepress.com/management_submission/

When submitting your full paper, please include a **cover letter** that explicitly states that you would like your paper to be considered for this special issue.

Biography of the Editors

Nicolas ARNAUD, PhD, is Associate Professor in the Department of Management and Deputy Director of Audencia Grande Ecole at Audencia, School of Management in France. His research interests include (inter-)organizational collective competence and middle managers practices from a communication perspective.

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A Special Issue has been published in 2013 to celebrate M@n@gement's 15th anniversary featuring papers from (among others): S. Clegg, P. Jarzabkowski, T. Pinch, A. Langley, L. Rouleau, A. Spicer, E. Vaara, H. Willmott. (cf. vol. 16, n.5: http://www.management-aims.com/vol16_en.html).

Recent Special Issues of M@n@gement have focused on *Institutional Theory* (Guest editors: B. Forgues, R. Greenwood, I. Martí, P. Monin and P. Walgenbach, 2012, vol. 15, n. 5); *Critical Management Studies and Management Education* (Guest editors: S. Clegg, F. Dany and Ch. Grey, 2011, vol. 14, n. 5); and *Business Models* (Guest editors: X. Lecoq, B. Demil, J. Ventura, 2010, vol. 13, n. 4).

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