

Beyond Interpretivism? New Encounters with Technology and Organisation

IFIP WG 8.2 Working Conference, 9th-10th Dec 2016, Dublin, Ireland

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IFIP WG 8.2 has a long and distinguished history in shaping research agendas around information technology and organisation. The 1984 Manchester Working Conference (Fitzgerald et al. 1985), for instance, has been long regarded as a key moment in the movement to embrace more pluralistic, post-positivist research approaches within the information systems (IS) field. Subsequent working conferences built on this gathering by promoting and developing interpretive modes of enquiry into IS and organisational phenomena, thus shaping the formation of a generation of IS researchers. Now, nearly a quarter of a century after the landmark Manchester event, we hope that Dublin in 2016 will provide a site to contemplate a re-gathering and re-focusing of attention on possible new kinds of research encounters with technology and organisation.

To suggest a move 'beyond' interpretivism is not to deny or diminish its importance; rather we want to build on and extend this tradition in novel and interesting ways. Specifically, if the interpretivist turn drew its legitimation primarily from the philosophical field of epistemology—where the distinction between truth and meaning-making was explored—less attention was placed on other philosophical domains, such as ontology, ethics and aesthetics. Thus, we invite contributors to explore a broadening of 'conventional' interpretivist approaches to understanding techno-organisational phenomena. For example, what could we learn by shifting attention from what specific technologies 'mean' to what sociomaterial assemblages 'do' in their becoming? What might be the implications of the many 'turns'—e.g. ontological, affective, practice—that have been announced in social theory over the last twenty years in areas such as social anthropology, science and technology studies, feminist theory, geography, and philosophy? How might these offer alternative ways of encountering/enacting/performing techno-organisational phenomena, and what might be the associated opportunities, challenges, and possible (ontological/epistemological/methodological/ethical) implications?

Examples of suggested topics for discussion include, but are not limited to:

- Process philosophy and ontologies of becoming (Whitehead 1978, Introna 2013, Chia 2002)
- Practice Theory (Schatzki et al. 2001, Nicolini 2013)
- Performativity (Austin 1962, Butler 1990, Mol 2002, MacKenzie 2006)
- Agential Realism (Barad 2007, Orlikowski and Scott 2008)
- Non-representational theory (Thrift 2007)
- Materiality, embodiment and spatialisation (Ingold 2000, Whatmore 2006, Malpas 2006)
- Affect and the body (Clough and Halley 2007, Burkitt 1999)
- Post-humanism and sociomateriality (Haraway 1991, Mol 2002, Suchman 2007)
- Phronetic social science (Flyvbjerg et al. 2012)
- Ecological approaches (Ingold 2012)

We wish to provoke stimulating discussion between social scientists from different fields who collectively share an interest in technology and organisation. While priority will be given to the themes outlined in this call, we also welcome submissions on any topic relevant to IFIP Working Group 8.2.

We invite those interested in participating to submit one of the following: full research papers (7000 words maximum); shorter position papers (3,000 words maximum), or; panel proposals. We would also welcome suggestions for alternative and experimental formats for presenting work and for fostering dialogue at the conference. The deadline for submissions is **11 May 2016**.

Further information on the submission process and updates on the conference will be available at the conference website: <http://ifip82dublin.weebly.com>