**CMS Sub-theme: Practices and strategies of ignorance**

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The social construction of knowledge is often taken as a truism, yet the simultaneous production of ignorance during knowledge creation processes has been paradoxically *ignored*. The role of ignorance in social life is undeniable with information overload, fake news, doubt-as-a-product, and attention economies playing key roles. The study of ignorance has suffered from the stigma and norms resulting from a scientific culture where the production and accumulation of knowledge dominate the main drive of social, economic, and political legitimacy and authority.

Nevertheless, the critical study of ignorance has been gaining traction in social studies in the last decade. Following the footsteps of Bourdieu and Foucault, scholars have started to recognize how “the unspoken and unspeakable are generated and mobilized in the interests of power and capital” (Mair et al., 2012, p.14). Most particularly, many studies have explored how major corporations have strategically created doubt and ignorance in order to promote their own interests (Michaels, 2008; Oreskes and Conway, 2010; Proctor, 2011). Yet, it is also a question how rising populism, skepticism about expertise (Huising, 2015), and the so-called post-truth era (signified in the form of ‘fake news’ and ‘alternative facts’) affect the relationship between truth, fact, doubt and ignorance (Kelly and McGoey, 2018).

The critical appraisal of the power of ignorance, however, should go beyond the macro strategy of big actors (McGoey, 2012). Sociologists and anthropologists have recently been calling for studies to investigate the practice of ignorance in everyday lives (Tuana and Sullivan, 2006; Marder, 2015). In other words, ignorance is also a part of micro practices that serve to sustain or disrupt social order (Scott, 1985; Mair et al., 2012). From a critical point of view, this perspective might stress how ignorance is part of a systemic mode of control, but also how actors might create spaces of emancipation through practices of ignorance. Moreover, they might explore micro-practices of epistemicide or “cognitive injustice” (de Sousa Santos, 2015).

As a broad field of study, management and organization studies are criticized for their ignoring or excluding various socio-economic and political aspects that shape organizations and organizational life (e.g. Slavery (Cooke, 2003); total institutions (Clegg, 2006); (post)colonialism (Westwood and Jack, 2007)). Similarly, a focus on how such epistemological and ontological ‘ignorance’, with its own politics, shapes our understanding of organizing society and normalizing/marginalizing specific theories and methodologies.

We invite contributions that consider, but are not limited to, the following themes and topics around the critical side of ignorance:

* Macro narratives of non-knowledge
* Strategic uses of ignorance, ambiguity, doubt, and secrecy
* Practices of epistemicide and efforts of “cognitive justice”
* Power effects of ignorance
* Ignorance as an act of resistance and micro-emancipation
* Methodological challenges for studying ignorance
* Epistemological and ontological ignorance and critical organization studies
* Post-truth discussions and ignorance

Please submit a 500 word abstract (excluding references, one page, Word document NOT PDF, single spaced, no header, footers or track changes) together with your contact information to janna.rose@grenoble-em.com. The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 31, 2019. We will notify you of our decision by the end of February.

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