**The 11th International Critical Management Studies Conference, 2019**

The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, UK

Call for Papers for the stream:

**The intimacy of dis/organization and mis/management**

**- Exploring relations of order and disorder in critical organization and management studies**

Stream conveners:

**Mie Plotnikof**, Associate Professor, Aarhus University at Copenhagen, Denmark

**Dennis Mumby**, Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

**Tim Kuhn**, Professor, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA

**Consuelo Vásquez**, Associate Professor, University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada

Despite Cooper’s (1986) argument that order and disorder are inseparable and co-constitutive features of all organizational life, processes of *dis*order and *dis*organization have typically been peripheral in organization and management theory. As such, the messy sides of organization and management – and their impact on establishing order in contemporary organizational life – are often overlooked. However, debates across critical organization and management studies are beginning to address the interrelations of order and disorder (Böhm & Jones, 2001; Burrell & Parker, 2016; Cooper, 2001; Hassard, Keleman, & Cox, 2008), and thus seek to explore how organization and disorganization as well as management and mismanagement may be understood as mutually dependent and dynamically interwoven. Studies are developing this critical line of thought by conceptualizing, for example, the unmanaging organization (Munro, 2001), the “spectres” of disorganization (Knox, O’Doherty, Vurdubakis, & Westrup, 2015), the dark spaces of organization (O’doherty, De Cock, Rehn, & Ashcraft, 2013), the un/doing and performativity of gendered dis/organization (Ashcraft & Mumby, 2004; Pullen & Knights, 2007; Trethewey & Ashcraft, 2004), the communicative constitution of dis/organization (Kuhn & Burk, 2014; Vásquez, Schoeneborn, & Sergi, 2016), and the dis/order of managerial bullshit (Spicer, 2013, 2018).

These studies foreground the power and performativity of tensions, contradictions, paradox and dilemmas as constitutive of everyday organizational life in contemporary capitalism (Putnam, Fairhurst, & Banghart, 2016). Thus, while they draw on different research fields, such as organizational discourse and communication studies, critical management studies, and feminist and gender studies, they all engage with the dynamic and intimate relations of organizational order and disorder in neoliberal societies. Moreover, they stress the crucial role that critical organization and management studies play in questioning the taken-for-granted, dominant assumptions of order and rationality as the primary and most optimal state of affairs in contemporary organization and management theory, practice, and education (Cunliffe, Forray, & Knights, 2002; Munro, 2001; Parker, 2001, 2016). Such assumptions typically overlook the not so innocent and often oppressive everyday work of performing, communicating, and representing the idea(l)s of an orderly, rational and well-functioning management and organization that remains dominant in neoliberal capitalism. The assumption of order also underestimates the severe and precarious effects on the quality of work life, the conditions of possibility, and the identity work required of actors involved in such reality constructions (Kuhn, Ashcraft, & Cooren, 2017; Miller & Rose, 2008; Mumby, 2016; Mumby & Plotnikof, 2018).

In this subtheme, then, we push this agenda further. We call for papers to explore the premise that organization and disorganization, and management and mismanagement are much more intimately related than often assumed. What might it mean if we start to consider them as mutually constitutive in creating the present and future social, organizational, political and economic dis/order of the day? Thus, we invite papers to theorize, explore methodologically and/or empirically the constitutive dynamics and effects of dis/order, dis/organization, and mis/management and their role(s) in contemporary neoliberal capitalist society. Topics considered through relations of dis/order, dis/organization and mis/management may include, but are not limited to:

* New economy and alternative organizing
* Organizational tensions, paradox, dilemma, irony
* Precarious work, insecurity and identity struggles
* Dark sides and spaces of in-between and informality
* Discursive and communicative constitution of dis/organization
* Managerial bullshit and organizational stupidity
* (Un)manageability, performativity, gender and body
* Organizational rituals, routine and mundane activities
* Future forms of dis/organization and mis/management

**Submission details**

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 Mie Plotnikof at [mp@edu.au.dk](mailto:mp@edu.au.dk).

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **January 31st 2019**, and we will notify you of our decision by the end of February. We are planning a Special Issue in the journal *ephemera* connected to the stream, so full papers of those interested in submitting to the SI are expected at the conference.

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