

Re-examining the role of work spaces in collaborative work

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Project description:

In today's working environment that requires organisations to attract the best minds and bring together people from different sectors, backgrounds and fields, the number of nomadic workers has rapidly been increased (Fabbri and Charue-Duboc, 2013). Organisational and inter-organisational members are able to work from different locations and time zones responding to their roles and achieving the organisational aims (Fayard and Weeks, 2011). This decrease of work ties to a specific location calls for a 'spatial turn' (van Marrejick and Yanow, 2010) and re-examination of the role of work space within organisations and between collaborating organisations.

This PhD research project will re-examine the concept of work space in organisations. This may include a consideration of the physical and material organisation or architecture of space (Dale and Burrell, 2008; Delbridge and Sallaz, 2015; Ashley, 2016), and the relational aspect of space as lived and experienced by the actors (i.e. social and psychological characteristics of the relationships, interactions and experiences that happen in space) (Lefebvre, 1991; Hernes, 2004; Kourti, 2017). We are also interested in proposals that examine how work spaces facilitate or obstruct intra and inter-organisational collaborative work. Our use of intra-organisational spaces includes work spaces and relationships within an organisation (e.g. Ngoasong & Grove, 2016); while inter-organisational spaces include partnerships and alliances (e.g. Ngoasong, 2011; Fabbri and Charue-Duboc, 2013). We are also open to proposals that explore the wider role of work spaces in collaborative work, such as for knowledge creation, communication exchange or innovation.

The successful candidate will demonstrate a good understanding of the relevance of the context(s) of their proposed research. Potential contexts include, but are not limited to, industry sectors (e.g. healthcare, hospitality and tourism, housing, education), geographic focus (e.g. developed or developing country) and international perspectives (e.g. international agencies collaborating with national/local organisations).

Proposed Theory and Methodology:

The final theoretical framework and methodology will reflect the detailed research topic, research questions and strengths of the candidate. It is most likely that a qualitative research approach will be used based on focus groups, in-depth interviews and participant observation. However, we are open to proposals that incorporate mixed method approaches.

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