



## FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

### *Behind the Scenes, Between the Lines*

### *Dis-Membering...*

## The Dark Side of Organization

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**June 25-27th 2008**

*Wortley Hall, Wortley Village, Sheffield*  
*“the workers’ stately home”* [www.wortleyhall.com](http://www.wortleyhall.com)

**Keynotes by: Professor Gibson Burrell, University of Leicester Management School**  
**Professor Stewart Clegg, University of Technology, Sydney and AIM**

In this two-day conference, we wish to explore, track, display and dis-member the ‘dark side’ of organization. We are interested in the perhaps instinctual, impulsive, non organized and hidden dynamics that influence organizing, and especially its ‘upsetting’ part. Our aim is to confront the potential of the dark side of organization as an alternative focus for understanding organizational life.

**We invite papers that consider such questions as:**

- Should we talk about a “dark side”? How can it be defined and why is it conceived of as being dark? Can and should the “dark side” be suppressed? Can it be creative as well as destructive? Is an ethics of the dark side possible? Is there also a horror of “whiteness”?
- Are organizations no more than trembling aggregates of human flesh, violence, pain and/or desires? How can organization studies engage with the nature of the formless? Is aesthetics one way to recognise its negativity? Are there others?
- Does dis-membering mean more than taking apart? Does it require the development of new methods of study and how can they be generated?

**Possible themes that papers might address could include:**

- Desire, sexuality, carnality, passion, sacrifice and the sacred in organization
- Depravity, perversion and transgression in organization;
- Corruption, bribery, organizational crime, fraud, post-Enron issues
- Abuse of power, harassment, bullying, intimidation, extortion, bystander, suicide, murder.
- Secrecy, espionage, disinformation, surveillance.
- The creativity of the dark side and the dark side of learning.
- Decrepitude, decay, terror and horror.
- Organized aspects of human tragedies and disasters – war, genocide, exploitation and displacement of indigenous people by “development” projects.
- Technologies of horror and the horrors of technology.
- The monstrous in organization and organization theory – including consideration of excess, waste, hybrids, chimera.
- The significance of illusion, including dreams; symbolism, artefacts and language of the dark side; simulacra, escapism, gambling, risk.
- Non-knowledge, non-being and the Inhuman.
- Phantoms, spectres, spirits and ghosts.....!

**We also welcome papers that:**

- Explore the potential contributions to the understanding of the dark side of organization of specific authors and movements outside the boundary of organization studies, such as: Artaud, Bataille, surrealism or recent approaches to the application of psychoanalysis (such as Zizek’s appropriation of Lacan, and the work of Laplanche).
- Develop approaches to formlessness: the rhizomatics of the dark side; architecture, thresholds, transitions, ectoplasm, clouds, mess, pneumatology; challenges of the formless to organizational philosophy.
- Attempt further to explore arguments advanced in Burrell’s *Pandemonium*

**Papers and Proposals**

We invite proposals for innovative forms of presentations as well as conventional papers; innovative forms can include performances, demonstrations of methods or techniques, and novel or unconventional utilizations of representational forms. Forms that unleash the dark side of individual or collective creativity (like the surrealists’ *exquisite cadaver*) and make it available for scrutiny are particularly welcome. Should your presentation require a timing or other resources outside the conventional format, please set out your requirements clearly. We hope to facilitate a wide range of approaches to the topic.

Abstracts for full papers (500 words) or working papers (300 words) or proposals for other forms of presentation or event (300-500 or whatever you think is necessary) should be sent to [darksideoforg@btinternet.com](mailto:darksideoforg@btinternet.com) by 28th November 2007. Decisions on acceptance will be made by January 18<sup>th</sup> 2008. Full papers, where applicable, should be sent by 30th April for inclusion in the proceedings.

**Registration**

Registration will include *all accommodation and meals* (including conference dinner) from 2pm 25<sup>th</sup> to 2pm 27<sup>th</sup> and will cost @ £275 per person (single) £220 (sharing). Accommodation and registration forms will be available in autumn 2007.

**Conference Organizers:**

**Garance Maréchal** (University of Liverpool); **Hugo Letiche** (UvH Utrecht);  
**Stephen Linstead** (University of York); **Torkild Thanem** (University of Vaxjo).

**Email:** [darksideoforg@btinternet.com](mailto:darksideoforg@btinternet.com)

**Conference website:** <http://sinstead.userworld.com/darkside/dsindex.html>