

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Behind the Scenes, Between the Lines

Dis-Membering...

The Dark Side of Organization

June 25-27th 2008

Wortley Hall, Wortley Village, Sheffield
“the workers’ stately home” www.wortleyhall.com

Keynotes by: Professor Gibson Burrell, University of Leicester Management School
Professor Stewart Clegg, University of Technology, Sydney and AIM
Dr Patricia MacCormack, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge

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 Žižek’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 by 28th November 2007. Decisions on acceptance will be made by January 18th 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 25th to 2pm 27th and will cost @ £285 per person (single) £230 (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

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

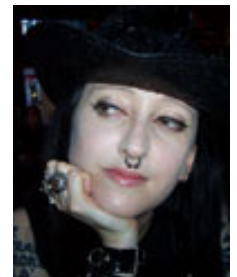
About the Keynote Speakers:

Gibson Burrell is Head of the Management School at the University of Leicester, having enjoyed a distinguished career at the Universities of Lancaster and Warwick. Co-author of *Sociological Paradigms and Organizational Analysis* with Gareth Morgan (1979) he inaugurated debates in organization studies that continue and make him one of the most highly cited scholars in the field – on either side of the Atlantic. Gibson's remarkable ability to open up new areas of the field was felt during the 80s in studies of gender and sexuality, and both individually and in collaboration with Robert Cooper he set the terms for another generation of debate on modernism and postmodernism. In 1997 he produced a creative landmark in his *tour de force* sole-authored book *Pandemonium*, which was a radical innovation in transdisciplinary thinking, as well in the form of the work. Constructed as a theme-park style tour through the dark recesses of a medieval city of the organizational mind, it remains a dramatic source of inspiration for 21st century organizational thought.



Stewart Clegg is Professor of Management at the University of Technology, Sydney and at Aston Business School, as well as being a Visiting Professor at a number of European Universities including Maastricht University, Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, both in the Netherlands, EM-Lyon Business School, France, and Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. He has produced many books, including the Academy of Management George R. Terry award-winning *Handbook of Organization Studies* (1996; 2006 2e; with Cynthia Hardy, Tom Lawrence and Walter Nord), the Eight Volume *Central Currents in Organization Studies* (2003), *Debating Organizations* (2003), with Robert Westwood, and the *International Encyclopedia of Organization Studies* (2007 with James R. Bailey). His interest in the dark side of organizations stems from his world-renowned work on power, including the best-selling *Frameworks of Power* (1989) and the recent *Power in Organizations* (2006 with Nelson Phillips and David Courpasson), and the organizational “heart of darkness” that it often occludes.

Patricia MacCormack has published extensively in the areas of the visceral dimension of cinema, corporeality, the post-human, queer theory, feminism, ethics and continental philosophy. Not shy of controversy, MacCormack's work fearlessly exposes the darker side of desire. She is well known for essays on perversion, masochism, body modification, polysexuality and the ethics of becomings which have appeared in *Rhizomes*, *Women: A Cultural Review*, *Body and Society*, *Theory, Culture and Society* as well as numerous anthologies. She is the author of *Cinesexuality* (Ashgate, 2008) and co-editor (with Ian Buchanan) of *Schizoanalysis and Cinema* (Continuum, 2008).



About the Organizers:



Garance Maréchal is Lecturer in Strategy at the University of Liverpool Management School (UK). She is particularly interested in the use of reflection and reflexivity in the construction of lay and scientific knowledge. Her PhD was completed at Paris-Dauphine University (France) and includes a reflexive ethnography of her own methodological and ethical practices, which offers a description of 'the dark side' of her own stream of thoughts during her research process. She is particularly keen on the artistic work of the Surrealists. g.marechal@liverpool.ac.uk

Hugo Letiche is Research Professor in 'Meaning in Organization' at the University for Humanistics (UvH) Utrecht (The Netherlands). He has a fascination with 'magic realism' and is currently collecting stories of the ghoulish imprisonment and 'torture' of old age persons in so-called old age homes. His research interests include Artaud, social complexity theory and (post-) humanist thought and ethics. h.letiche@uvh.nl



Stephen Linstead is Professor of Critical Management at the York Management School, University of York (UK). His research and publications have included work on organizational aesthetics, postmodern thought, identity, and gender and sexuality. He has a particular fondness for the work of Georges Bataille, and subsequent moves from ontologies of becoming to meontologies of non-being. sl519@york.ac.uk

Torkild Thanem is an Assistant Professor in Organization and Management at Växjö University (Sweden). After his PhD from Warwick Business School, he did post-doctoral work at Stockholm University on public health and public spaces. His recent publications include work on Deleuze, sexual spaces and the monstrous organization, on which he has a book forthcoming with publisher Edward Elgar. torkild.thanem@vxu.se

