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Keele University, UK

GWO2016 Call for Abstracts

**Emplacing gender relations in organization:  
the sociomateriality and spatiality of doing gender**

**Stream Convenors:**

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This stream focuses on gender as *sociomaterial practice* accomplished in local, specific organizational environments. Attention needs to be paid to the material form of organizational *place* that secures the production and reproduction of gender relations (Gieryn, 2000; Massey, 1994). This stream aims therefore at enriching our understanding of gender as practice by mobilizing the concept of sociomateriality (Orlikowski, 2006; 2007; 2009), and by answering the call for “bringing *space* back in” recently formulated in different fields (e.g., in organization studies see: Clegg, Kornberger, 2006; Vásquez, Cooren, 2013, Yanow, 1998).

Promoted primarily by Wanda Orlikowski (Orlikowski, 2006; Orlikowski, Scott, 2008), “sociomateriality” is an umbrella concept which has fostered an entire stream of new research based on the so-called “relational ontology”. According to the relational underpinning of sociomateriality, “the social and the material are inherently inseparable” (Orlikowski, Scott, 2008, p. 456). This line of reasoning is intertwined with the concept of gender as a *social* practice (Poggio, 2006) through which identities are *discursively* (Martin, 2003) and *materially* (Chia, 2003) negotiated and (re)confirmed. Gendering is situated, carried out in the virtual or real presence of others who are presumed to be oriented to its production (West and Zimmerman, 1987).

Studies on sociomateriality allow to look at the considerable amount of materiality entailed in every aspect of organizing, from the visible forms (e.g., bodies, clothes, rooms, desks, chairs, tables, buildings, computers), to the less visible flows (e.g., data, voice networks) (Cecez-Kecmanovic et al., 2014). Similarly, gender studies emphasize how gendering is performed in context, through materiality of composite assemblages of technology, bodies, practices, and place (Butler, 1990; 1993; Gherardi, Poggio, 2001, Haraway, 1985/1991, Barad, 2012, Suchman, 1985). While studies about gendering in organizing have traditionally privileged time, space and place are now increasingly being focused on. The concept of space, as always under construction (not as stable and “already there”), allows to recognize the provisional nature of spatio-temporal configurations (Beyes, Steyaert, 2012). Such assemblies of humans, artifacts and environments (Latour, 2005; Massey, 2005) are *emplaced* by situated practices, such as gender ones, and, at the same time, practices are influenced by the materiality of the place where they are situated (e.g., Ropo et al., 2015). Places are thus negotiated and contested in the ongoing articulation of sociomaterial practices, of which gender is of particular interest (Massey, 2005).

This stream aims to foster a discussion about the mutual entanglement of gender, space and place. The call is therefore directed to those who want to explore the sociomateriality of gender and its spatial dimension, going beyond a concept of place as “container” or “stage”. We invite theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions that explore how gendering and organizing, as sociomaterial practices, are intertwined in place/making place. Contributions from different fields are welcomed. We also encourage an interdisciplinary approach, acknowledging that sociomaterial thinking has numerous intellectual roots and allies. The following issues are indicative, but not exhaustive, of our field of focus:

- Sociomaterial view of gender and other practices producing power relations in organizing processes, as age, ethnicity, sexuality, or their intersections
- Emplacing gender through artifacts
- Virtual and/or temporary places and gendering
- Aesthetics, gender, space and place
- Symbolic meaning of place
- Geographies of gender in, between and around organizations
- Situated and situating gender identities
- Global and local gender practices in organizations
- Connection of gender with space, location, positionality
- Place as orchestrated event and/or as “experience-scape” and gendering
- Spacing gender, for instance exploring multiple gender enactments throughout an organization or how gender enactments “travel”
- The construction of gender and place focusing on stability/fluidity, homogeneity/multiplicity of practices
- The practicing and negotiation of place entangled with multiple gender practices
- Changing places – emergent and designed negotiations entangled with gender practices
- Performing the materiality of body in organization
- Organizing work and gender in/through place
- Gendering in the “presentification” of the organization as it is performed in different places (inside or outside the physical premises of the organization)
- Designing places from a feminist/gender perspective
- Gender, place and politics – possibilities for and challenges in grounding action on a relational, non-essentialist, ontology
- Methodological issues, challenges and new possibilities for doing research
- Space as conceptual tool for foregrounding gender as sociomaterial practice

Abstracts of approximately 500 words (ONE page, Word document NOT PDF, single spaced, excluding references, no header, footers or track changes) are invited by 1st November 2015 with decisions on acceptance to be made by stream leaders within one month. All abstracts will be peer reviewed. New and young scholars with 'work in progress' papers are welcomed. Papers can be theoretical or theoretically informed empirical work. In the case of co-authored papers, ONE person should be identified as the corresponding author. Note that due to restrictions of space, multiple submissions by the same author will not be timetabled. Abstracts should be emailed to: [michela.cozza@unitn.it](mailto:michela.cozza@unitn.it) Abstracts should include FULL contact details, including your name, department, institutional affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address. *State the title of the stream to which you are submitting your abstract.* \*Note that no funding, fee waiver, travel or other bursaries are offered for attendance at GWO2016\*.

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