MAKING PROJECTS CRITICAL 9

We are pleased to announce the Call for Papers for the 9th Making Projects Critical Workshop, to be held at Mälardalen University, Västerås, Sweden on January 17-18, 2019.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Anette Hallin, Mälardalen University

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"Making Projects Critical" is the title of series of international workshops intended to provide a forum for research from a wide range of critical perspectives relating to all aspects of projects, including project management, project based organising and the "projectification" of society.

Such critique finds inspiration in the writings of a range of authors, drawing, among others, on Labour process Theory, critical theory, actor network theory (and post-ANT), STS, sociomateriality, critical environmentalism, feminism, post-Modernism, moral-philosophical pedagogy and other traditions broadly related to Critical Management Studies.

Through the workshop, we hope to highlight and, where possible, remedy the theoretical and methodological limitations of traditional conceptions of projects and project management. In particular, the intention is to draw upon wider intellectual resources than the instrumental rationality, quantitative and positivist methodologies and technicist solutions, which have been used traditionally to understand, implement and control organisational projects, and to reflect on the implications of alternative perspectives for project management practice.

The first eight workshops have resulted in a themed stream at the 2011 CMS Conference and have produced three major publications:

1. Making Projects Critical (2006), an edited volume with 16 chapters, eds. Hodgson, D.E. and Cicmil, S. Palgrave: Basingstoke, UK and New York, USA;
2. "Project Management behind the Façade", a special issue of ephemera: theory & politics with 7 contributions (2009, 9:2);
3. "The politics of projects in technology-intensive work", a special issue of New Technology, Work and Employment (2016, 31:6)

CALL FOR PAPERS

For the MPC9 we especially invite papers that address one or several of the following themes:

- Projects in non-traditional project settings: Which tensions occur when projects are implemented and carried out in settings where projects are deployed as support activities rather than constituting the core business? How is resistance manifested and how does power shift in such organisations when projects are deployed? Which discursive strategies are employed to deal with dysfunctionalities?
- Projects and digitalisation: How are projects, project work and project management digitalised and how may this be understood from a critical theoretical perspective? What happens to project members as possibilities of monitoring them

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increase? Which are the new "digital divides" that digital project work creates? How do project workers collaborate with digital co-workers? Are digitalization efforts carried out through projects and with which consequences?

- Projects and space: How is project work spatially situated and which are the consequences of this for the distribution of power? What does the emergence of collaborative spaces of various kinds (coworking spaces, fablabs, activity-based offices, etc) mean for project work? does the projectification of society enable the emergence of new workplaces? How does project work affect the relation to the "workplace", whatever this may be (for instance in the case of nomadic workers)?

- Critical projects: How are subversive, norm critical/creative and revolutionary projects managed? How do projects with objectives relating to gender, ethnicity, equality, sustainability and social innovation unfold? Which barriers and pitfalls do they encounter and how may this be related to their form, the role of stakeholders or the practices that develop in and through them?

- We also invite papers that broadly address the themes typical of the critical project management tradition, for example: power, domination, resistance and emancipation in project work; dysfunctional project rationalities; projectification and de-projectification; dialectics, disruption, revolution and reformation in and through projects; tensions between standardization and creativity in project organisations; and ethics and moral responsibility within projects. Papers may draw on ethnographies, case studies or the study of discourses but may also be in the form of conceptualisations or theoretical discussions.

DEADLINES AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Extended abstracts (2-3 pages including references) required by September 1st 2018
2. Notification of decision with feedback to authors by October 19th 2018
3. Full paper submission (20 and 25 pages, A4, 1.5 spacing, Arial 12) by December 21st 2018.

Please send all submissions via e-mail to MPC9@mdh.se with "MPC9 abstract" in the subject header. Extended abstracts will be reviewed by the organising committee members and the authors of selected abstracts will be invited to develop their papers for presentation in the workshop.
Other enquiries may also be sent to MPC9@mdh.se

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The workshop will be held at Mälardalen University in Västerås, Sweden, one of Sweden's oldest cities and the country's 6th largest city. Västerås is accessed by Västerås airport (5km from the city), by Arlanda airport (1h 30 min away by bus transfer) or by national and regional train services (eg 1h from Stockholm).
The format of the workshop will closely follow previous events in the series, with 15-20 papers to be presented over two days and involving 20-40 participants. We plan to start on Thursday 17th at 9:30 (coffee from 9am) and finish on Friday 18th by 3pm at the latest. We expect the costs to be similar to previous workshops.

MORE INFORMATION

For details of previous MPC conferences. For information and discussions on this and other MPC-events, please see the "Making Projects Critical" LinkedIn group.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to MPC9@mdh.se

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