How to study organization starting from communication?
Communicative Constitution of Organization (CCO) methods workshop
Wednesday, July 3, 2013, Université de Montréal, Canada

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The idea that communication constitutes organization (or, in short, CCO) has received considerable attention over the last years (for recent reviews, see Ashcraft et al., 2009; Cooren et al., 2011). The CCO perspective in itself displays a variety of theoretical backgrounds, premises, topics of interest, and – last but not least – methods. As Brummans et al. (forthcoming) argue, CCO scholarship brings up important methodological challenges because it requires us to “zoom into” and “out of” (Nicolini, 2009) an actual communicational event. The question of how to study the communicative constitution of organization thus raises epistemological, ontological, conceptual, and also very pragmatic issues for doing research.

The workshop addresses these issues starting with six CCO premises developed by Cooren et al. (2011, p. 1151), which offer us a common ground for reflecting on our research practices:

1. CCO scholarship studies communicational events
2. CCO scholarship should be as inclusive as possible about what we mean by (organizational) communication
3. CCO scholarship acknowledges the co-constructed or co-oriented nature of (organizational) communication
4. CCO scholarship holds that who or what is acting always is an open question
5. CCO scholarship never leaves the realm of communicational events.
6. CCO scholarship favors neither organizing nor organization

The one-day workshop is structured in two consecutive parts revolving around ‘hands on’ examples of how to go about this kind of research and workshop discussions thereof. The first part takes a closer look at problematization in research and asks: What is a CCO research question? In addition to a keynote on this question, we are considering extended abstracts of work-in-progress and first research ideas as subject of our workshop discussion. The second part then focuses on different types of analysis – specifically, interaction analysis, gesture analysis, and network analysis – grounded in distinct theoretical approaches. It features data sessions facilitated by experts in the field.
The workshop offers an opportunity for CCO – and CCO-friendly – scholars to develop their ongoing research. The workshop should be of special interest for junior faculty scholars as well as Ph.D. students with research ideas under development. At the same time, it is suitable for papers that would benefit from discussion on methodology. Even if this is not one of the “official” EGOS preconference workshops, you can combine the workshop of course very conveniently with a participation in the EGOS Colloquium in Montréal which will take place from July 4-6, 2013 (http://www.egosnet.org), for instance in sub-theme no. 42 (“The communicative constitution of organizations: Organizations as precarious accomplishments”; hosted by François Cooren, Tim Kuhn, and Dennis Schoeneborn) – or any other sub-theme that might be of interest to you.

To participate in the workshop, please submit an extended abstract (between 800 and 1,000 words, including text, references, figures, and tables) stating your research question and (if applicable) the projected methodological approach to Consuelo Vásquez (vasquez.consuelo@uqam.ca). The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 28, 2013. We will respond to your submission and will give you more information about the workshop by March 22, 2013. Meanwhile if you have any questions, please contact Consuelo Vásquez (vasquez.consuelo@uqam.ca) or Steffen Blaschke (steffen.blaschke@uni-hamburg.de).

References:


