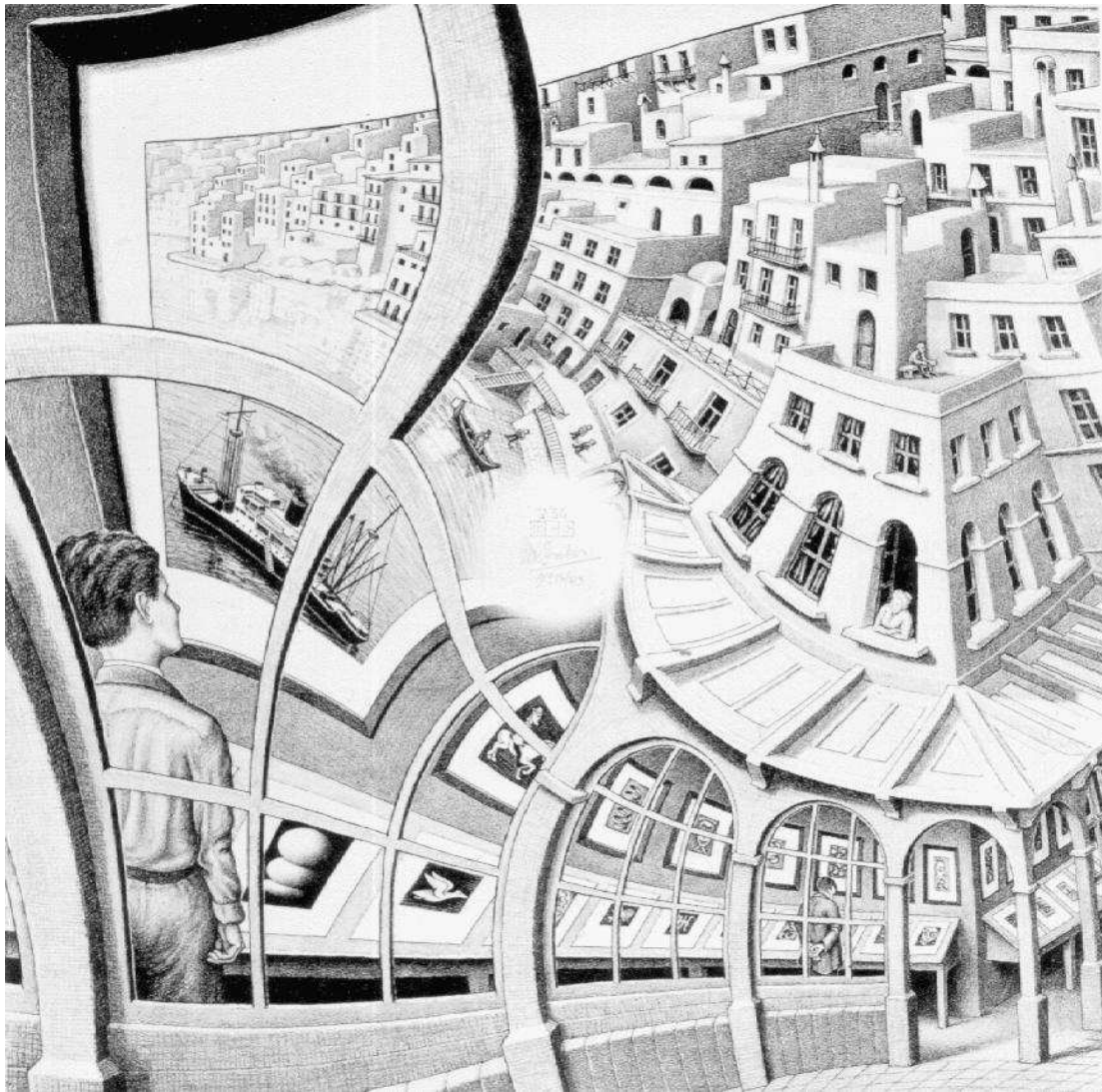


8th International Conference on Organizational Discourse: *Translations, Transformations and Transgressions*

London, Wednesday 23rd July-Friday 25th July, 2008



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ICRODSC Website

Conference Organisers

Cliff Oswick, *Queen Mary, University of London, UK* and Tom Keenoy,
University of Leicester School of Management, UK.

Organising Committee

Armin Beverungen, *University of Leicester*, Nick Ellis, *University of Leicester, UK*, David Grant, *University of Sydney, Australia*, Cynthia Hardy, *University of Melbourne, Australia*, Ida Sabelis, *Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands*, Robyn Thomas, *Cardiff University, UK*, Sierk Ybema, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands.*

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Conference Co-sponsors

The School of Business and Management, Queen Mary, University of London, UK
The School of Management, University of Leicester, UK
Cultuur, Organisatie en Management, Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands

The Conference

As with previous conferences, the primary aim of the 8th Conference is to develop further insights into the field of organizational discourse. It is envisaged that the Conference will provide a forum in which academics with contrasting epistemological and ontological perspectives on both organization and discourse can engage in dialogue.

Following two successful events in Amsterdam, the Conference is returning to London in 2008. It will be hosted by the School of Business and Management at Queen Mary, University of London and organized under the auspices of the International Centre for Research in Organizational Discourse, Strategy and Change (ICRODSC). This international research centre links researchers from leading international management schools who share an

interest in developing and applying discourse methods in the study of organizations. The Centre acts as umbrella for a number of discourse-related research activities and initiatives.

Conference Theme

In keeping with past conferences, the theme for the 8th Conference is framed in broad terms with a focus on aspects of discursive production and re-production in and around organizations. More fundamentally it is about the social processes involved in naming, fixing and transforming the social aspects of organization and the social actors engaging in organizing and/or being organized. On this basis, the sub-themes of the conference (i.e. translations, transformations and transgressions) should be read as indicative rather than exhaustive. They are intended to highlight a range of contemporary issues pertinent to the discursive analysis of organizations and organizing. While the three concepts are fluid and interpenetrating, they could be deployed separately.

The notion of *translation* has self-evident discursive connotations. It is typically associated with the transference of meaning from one language to another and, more broadly, can be viewed as “the expression or rendering of something in another medium, form, or mode of expression” (*The New Oxford Shorter English Dictionary*). However, *translation* is also a fundamental process informing all social scientific endeavour. It signals the epistemological issues to be confronted in any attempt to articulate the ‘social’ since this engenders an intrinsic translation of observation into generalisation through some process of representation. Hence, *translation* can be seen as implicating a range of transference processes from observation to reflection; thoughts to words; objects to subjects; actions to articulations; denotations to connotations; and from discourse to discourse. ‘Translation’ thus implies a process of *transformation*. In addition, this emphasis on *transformation* reflects a focus on aspects of change. This could relate to any aspect of social, organizational and/or discursive change. Such transformations may be accomplished through the interplay between actors and structures, agents and agency, time and space, and/or connecting micro-discursive manoeuvres to wider macro-institutional shifts. But it can be difficult to locate the edge of words and, on occasion, translation involves a more radical transformation of an object. Hence, the inclusion of *transgressions* is designed to draw attention to discursive constructions which offer alternative readings of organizational phenomena and the less obvious aspects of organizing. In particular, it invites consideration of aspects of discontinuity, resistance and issues beyond dominant discourse(s) and taken-for-granted assumptions. ‘Transgression’ foregrounds a concern with disjunctures and the possibilities of novel and unorthodox readings of social phenomena.

Given the Conference theme(s) deliberately constitutes a broad discursive canvas, we expect the precise conference streams to emerge from the papers themselves. However, we also anticipate papers that will organize themselves within the following topics:

Sensemaking, Stories and Narrative
Individual and Social Identities
Critical Discursive Approaches
Discourse, Space and Temporality
Language, Culture and Organizational Change
Management Philosophy
Professions and Institutions

Metaphor, Tropes and Symbolism
Text, Talk and Technology
Conversation Analytic Approaches
Ideology, Power and Knowledge
Rhetoric, Realism and Materiality
Management Discourse
Structures, Networks and Agency

Ethnography and Organizational Life
Difference, Idiosyncrasy and Plurivocality
Reflexivity in Organizing

Consumption, Brands and Images
Dramaturgy and Aesthetics
Discrimination and Diversity

Papers are invited on talk and text which address issues of social representation, social construction and social interaction in relation to any aspect of organization or organizing in relation to these themes. Contributions may adopt any epistemological perspective but we are concerned to achieve a balance between empirical studies and conceptual/theoretical contributions.

Publications

As with previous conferences, the proceedings will be published (with an ISBN) and available to participants at the Conference. The 'proceedings book' will contain the abstracts of the papers presented and the full versions of the papers will be provided on a CD as part of the conference pack.

The seven previous Organizational Discourse conferences have led to the publication of several edited books: *Organization Development: Metaphorical Explorations* (1995); *Metaphor and Organizations* (1996); *Discourse and Organization* (1998); and, under the auspices of ICRODSC, *Sage Handbook of Organizational Discourse* (2004). The conferences have also resulted in the publication of a number of special issues and themed sections of journals, including: *Organization* (Vol. 4, No. 2, 1997); *Journal of Applied Management Studies* (Vol. 6, No. 2, 1997); *Human Relations* (Vol. 53, No. 9, 2000); *Journal of Applied Behavioral Science* (Vol. 36, No. 2, 2000); *Organization* (Vol.7, No.3, 2000); *Journal of Organisational Change Management* (Vol. 14, No. 3, 2001); *International Studies in Management and Organization* (Vol. 31: No.3, 2001); *Time and Society* (Vol. 14, No 2-3, 2005); *Organization Management Journal* (Vol. 2, No. 3, 2005); and, *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* (Vol. 27, No. 11-12, 2007).

It is anticipated that the 8th Conference will result in further publication(s) containing selected contributions from the conference.

Guidelines for Submission

All submissions and conference communications will be conducted by email. Prospective contributors interested in presenting a paper should send an abstract of approx. 1,000 words to the conference organisers by **11th January 2008**. Notification of acceptance of papers will be given by **3rd March 2008**.

Abstracts should be typed using double spacing and include:

- the title of the paper;
- the name(s), and affiliation(s) of the author(s) and,
- an author contact address, e-mail and telephone number

Copies of submissions should be sent as an email attachment (saved as a Word document or a text file) to **Cliff Oswick** at: sbm-discourse08@qmul.ac.uk

The Location: Queen Mary, University of London

About Queen Mary

Queen Mary is one of the largest multi-faculty colleges of the University of London. A campus-based university, it is right in the heart of things, just 15 minutes away from central London.

The College has over 11,500 UK, European and international students studying in four faculties plus Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry. Queen Mary has its roots in four historic colleges: Queen Mary College, Westfield College, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College and the London Hospital Medical College.

The Mile End campus is historically the home of Queen Mary College, which began life in 1885 as the People's Palace, a philanthropic endeavour to provide east Londoners with education and social activities. It was admitted to the University of London in 1915. Westfield College was founded in 1882 as a pioneering college for the higher education of women, and was granted its Royal Charter in 1932. In 1995, Queen Mary and Westfield merged with two distinguished medical colleges, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, established in 1843, and the London Hospital Medical College, England's first medical school, founded in 1785. Pooling strengths, expertise and resources, this brought clinical medical teaching to Queen Mary for the first time. Queen Mary is now fully integrated.

Conference Location

The conference will be held at the Mile End campus. This site is a distinguishing feature of the College and is a pleasant surprise for visitors. It is a peaceful, secure and friendly environment only a few yards from the bustle of Mile End Road, with landscaped squares and a host of facilities together on one site: cafés, bars and restaurants, the Students' Union, canal-side accommodation in our Student Village, bank and bookshop.

The academic facilities are housed in pleasantly architecturally-diverse buildings, ranging from the Victorian Queens' Building to the modern, award-winning Informatics Teaching Laboratory and a striking new building that houses an integrated Learning Resource Centre alongside state-of-the-art laboratories.

Over the last decade, more than £100 million has been invested in building and refurbishment programmes providing many specially designed and attractive facilities for both academic study and recreational use. A comprehensive Student Village around a 'village green' and incorporating cafes, shops and other facilities has been built next to the existing waterside campus student residences.

Plenary Speakers (to be announced)

Accepted Papers (to follow)

Conference Fees

The full conference fee is £360 (British pounds). This covers registration, all conference materials, refreshments, lunches, conference dinner and other social events.

ICRODSC

The International Centre for Research in Organizational Discourse, Strategy and Change (ICRODSC) was launched in 2001. It is supported by leading international management schools at the University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, Queen Mary, University of London, McGill University, King's College, University of London, University of Leicester, Lund University, Cardiff University, University of Colorado, and Texas A&M University. The Centre links international researchers who share an interest in developing and applying discourse methods in the study of organizations. It brings together researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds, provides a critical mass in research expertise, facilitates cross-disciplinary research, provides a banner for new research initiatives, provides contacts and support for doctoral students, and provides resources for workshops, studies, and other activities.

For further details see: <http://www.managementmarketing.unimelb.edu.au/icrodsc/>