



Organization studies and the science and art of design: Renewal or renaissance?

Track Chairs

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The aim of this track is to encourage a variety of proponents of design approaches to organization and management to engage in a multi-disciplinary, multi-theoretical and critical conversation about the promise of design as a model for contemporary management. A design approach to organization and management research has been advocated by different groups of scholars at different moments in the history of management research. Recent special issues of *Organization Science* and *Organization Studies* have brought forward new approaches and empirical material in favour of this research direction. There seems to be a renewal of the "design" paradigm in management studies? What are its promises and limitations? This track aims to debate these issues and to contribute to the increasing importance of the design tradition for organization and management studies.

Design is particularly concerned with envisioning systems that do not yet exist. It provides an alternative to the current dominant decision mode of thinking about management. It challenges the assumption that existing design templates are best and promotes the use of provocative models, metaphors and language as "transition tools" for pushing thinking beyond existing limits. We invite papers on management as design that show how history, culture, language and organizational rules enable and/or constrain design practices and outcomes. We are also interested in the contribution of perspectives drawing upon the arts and humanities and, in particular, in studies of innovative methods of collaborating across disciplinary, functional, and organizational boundaries. We invite papers that theorise design in interesting ways, drawing upon alternative traditions of thought.