The Ethics & Politics of the Real in Organization

A One-Day Workshop
21st of September 2007, 10.30am-5.30pm
Room 501, Ken Edwards Building
Centre for Philosophy and Political Economy

The Real meets organization

Man is not only much more unfree than he believes, but also much freer than he knows
(Zupančič, 2000: 28)

The Centre for Philosophy and Political Economy at the University Of Leicester School Of Management is pleased to host for the second time a seminar in the series organized by the Discourse Theory & Organization Network. The theme of this one-day workshop will be ‘The Ethics & Politics of the Real in Organization’. The day will consist of presentations, plus a roundtable discussion.

The term ‘ethics of the Real’ has gained prominence since the publication of Alenka Zupančič’s The Ethics of the Real: Kant and Lacan in 2000. Developing Lacan’s own work on the ethics of psychoanalysis (Seminar VII) and Kant (‘Kant with Sade’, Écrits), amongst others, Zupančič creatively approaches the question of ethics through a Lacanian lense, and her work has been widely picked up and discussed by others (see below for a list of suggested starting points), yet very few traces of it have been seen in organization studies.

The aim of this workshop is to enter this work on ethics from a Lacanian perspective into debate with organization studies. How can one conceive of an ethics of the Real? How does this contrast with other conceptions of ethics, for example the Kantian or Levinasian? What can a conception of an ethics of the Real do for organization studies? What are its political consequences? Presenters will address these and other question with regards to their own research. The roundtable will be discussing the question: ‘An ethics of the Real in business?’

Attendance

As catering must be booked and numbers confirmed in advance, please email Armin Beverungen (dab19@le.ac.uk) by the 10th of September to register.
**Timetable**

10.30-11.00  Welcome and coffee

11.00-12.30  Paper presentations I  
Campbell Jones: ‘TBC’  
Glyn Daly: ‘TBC’

12.30-14.00  Lunch @ Garendon Carvery Restaurant, Charles Wilson Building

14.00-15.30  Paper presentations II  
Marianna Fotaki: ‘TBC’  
Carl Cederstrom: ‘The masochistic reflexive turn’

15.30-16.00  Coffee

16.00-17.30  Roundtable discussion: ‘An ethics of the Real in business?’  
Participants: Martin Parker, Casper Hoedemakers, Andre Spicer

17.30-  Drinks at the Landsdowne Pub, London Road

**Preparation & reading group**

Attendance at the seminar is open to all, but participants will benefit from an acquaintance with the below readings.

W.W. Norton. Especially ‘The Paradox of Jouissance’ and ‘The Essence of Tragedy’.


Some of the readings can be made available. There will also be a reading group, organized by the Leicester Lacanian Cartel, on the 20th of September, on Alenka Zupančič’s *Ethics of the Real*. Please contact Armin Beverungen (dab19@le.ac.uk) for further information.

For updates, see [http://cmsorg.wikispaces.com/RealEthics](http://cmsorg.wikispaces.com/RealEthics).