Henri Bergson (1859 –1941) was one of the twentieth century’s most influential philosophers. His lectures at the Collège de France were significant intellectual events, captivating an entire era of young and vibrant French intellectuals. Georges Bataille, Roger Caillois, Julien Michel Leiris, André Breton, Jacques Maritain, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir are just some of the figures heavily indebted to Bergson’s legacy. As the only philosopher to have accepted the Nobel Prize for literature, Bergson’s presence is by no means an exclusively philosophical phenomenon - aspects of the surrealist movement, for example, were strongly influenced by his work.

Shortly after the Second World War, Bergson’s influence was gradually ushered towards the sidelines, giving more space to the overtly politically oriented philosophical systems of the time (e.g. Kojève, Sartre, Althusser). Nevertheless, in no small part thanks to Gilles Deleuze’s *Le Bergsonisme* (1966), what might be called a second-wave Bergsonism became increasingly evident. In this work, a philosophical classic in its own right, Deleuze shows how Bergson is one of the great influences upon his own thinking of difference, creativity and embodied human existence. Today, Bergson is recognized as a central figure within the intellectual history of France and for the movements referred to as ‘continental philosophy’ and ‘philosophical vitalism,’ among others. Through his innovative engagements with some of the big scientific issues of his time such as evolutionary theory, neuroscience and Einsteinian relativity theory, Bergson also made important reaffirmations of the continued relevance of philosophical reflection to the natural and human sciences.

This workshop seeks to explore some of Bergson’s ideas insofar as they might be said to offer insight into a thinking of the future of organization studies. A familiarity with Bergson’s work is not essential, indeed those who have yet to study Bergson are most encouraged to attend. That said, attendees will be required to read a selection of excerpts from his texts (see below) so as to participate in the reading groups. These groups will be preceded by presentations from three organization theorists who have taken inspiration from aspects of Bergson’s thought.

**Required Reading**


Henri Bergson and the Future of Organization Studies

A One Day Workshop, 12th of December 2006
Centre for Philosophy and Political Economy, University of Leicester

Workshop Programme

10-10.30 Registration and Coffee
10.30-11 Welcome from the Organizers and Introductory Presentation
   Rowland Curtis, University of Manchester
   Bergson and Organization Studies

11-12.45 Paper Presentations
   Ruud Kaulingfreks, Universities of Humanistics and Leicester
   Bergson and the Tension between Intellect and Intuition

   Steve Brown, Universities of Loughborough and Utrecht
   Thinking in duration: Memory and Experience in Bergson

   Campbell Jones, University of Leicester
   To Have Done With Process Theory

12.45-1.45 Lunch
1.45-3.15 Reading Group Part One
   Method & Knowledge

3.15-3.45 Coffee
3.45-4.45 Reading Group Part Two
   Organisation and Time

4.45-5 Concluding Remarks & Farewell

Registration and Contact

Registration is free but places are limited so please book early if you are interested in attending. For further information, please contact Stephen Dunne sd142@le.ac.uk or Ruud Kaulingfreks kaulingfreks@luna.nl. For registration please contact Stephen Dunne.