Symptoms of Organization: Deleuze, Foucault and Clinical Management Studies

Two-Day PhD Workshop, Thursday 1st - Friday 2nd February 2007
Centre for Philosophy and Political Economy, University of Leicester School of Management
In collaboration with
Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy, Copenhagen Business School

Description

For a number of years, the work of Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault has been highly influential in the field of management and organization studies. Such books as A Thousand Plateaus and Discipline and Punish have become essential reading for many academics working within the business school, particularly those inhabiting a broadly leftfield position. But despite this apparent familiarity with Deleuze and Foucault, rarely are these two thinkers read alongside one another in terms of their philosophical and historical method.

The two-day PhD workshop will read Deleuze and Foucault in light of their shared methodological concerns. The purpose of the workshop is to explore Deleuze’s notion of ‘symptomatology’ and what Foucault calls the ‘diagnosis of the present’. Moreover, the workshop aims to develop the methodological implications of these concepts for use in our own empirical research. The key question which the workshop seeks to address is: how are we to diagnose the symptoms of organization? By asking this question, it might be possible to outline not just a critical management studies but also, at one and the same time, a clinical management studies.

The workshop will be held in University of Leicester School of Management and will be attended by PhD students and lecturers from the UK and overseas. On the first day, there will be a series of mini-presentations from the organizers, linking the concepts of symptomatology and diagnosis to their own ongoing doctoral research, followed by an open discussion on the readings. On the second day, there will be full-length presentations on the theme of the critical and the clinical in the context of the business school.

The first day is open to PhD students only. The second day is open to all. Please bear in mind that the workshop is not an introduction to Deleuze and Foucault and therefore demands that the participants are familiar with the work of these thinkers and come prepared to discuss the readings.

A selection of texts (see below) will be made available to participants prior to the workshop.

Registration and Contact

Registration is free but places are extremely limited so please book early if you are interested in attending. For further information, please contact Nick Butler (nb115@le.ac.uk) or Michael Pedersen (mip.lpf@cbs.dk).
Required Reading


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Workshop programme

DAY ONE (PhD students only)

12.00-12.30 Registration and coffee
12.30-1.00 Welcome from the organizers
1.00-2.30 Presentations from the organizers
2.30-3.00 Coffee
3.00-5.00 Reading Group Discussion

DAY TWO (Open to all)

10.00-10.30 Registration and Coffee
10.30-11.00 Welcome from the organizers
11.00-12.00 Dr Martin Fuglsang, Copenhagen Business School
Critique and Resistance in the Midst of the Biopolitical Production of Socius
12.00-1.00 Dr Steve Brown, Universities of Loughborough and Utrecht
Between the Planes: Deleuze and Social Science?
1.00-2.30 Lunch
2.30-3.30 Prof. Sverre Raffnsøe, Copenhagen Business School
The Symptomatology of Welfare
3.30-4.30 Roundtable Discussion
4.30-5.00 Concluding Remarks and Farewell