Non-identity and the inoperative organization

Ruud Kaulingreks, Universities of Utrecht and Leicester

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University of Leicester School of Management
501 Ken Edwards Building, University of Leicester

Abstract

According to Jean Luc Nancy there is always community. Existence can only be understood in commonality. He develops Heidegger’s idea of Dasein ist mitsein to a radical sociology of non-identity. Being together does not mean we explicitly work together. Still there is always a relation. All attempts to operationalize community achieve therefore the opposite. They forget the existing community in order to create an erzats community. Nancy advocates for a non-identity community that is inoperative. Where we all are at the same time singular and plural. This insights open up a sociological field of inoperative commons as it conceptualize ways of association that are grounded on a commons without institutionalizing into an identity. Especially Internet technologies (wiki’s for example) enable to gather inoperative communities that prove highly effective in the sense they are able to attain goals. Inoperativeness leads to results it seems. These rhizomatic structures form a strong alternative to institutionalized organization forms. Inoperativeness maybe a way of organizing that shines a different light on organizations.