

SIG: PROJECT ORGANIZING

Project organising is a rapidly growing area of research interest unified by a concern with projects and programmes as temporary organisations with a pre-determined life-cycle. Thus the SIG addresses a distinctive organizational phenomenon while posing important challenges to predominant organisation theory and practice.

TRACK 19: Project Futures - in Research and Practice

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Abstract:

Project thinking theory advancement focuses on temporal aspects of human action encompassing: **Projects**, **Temporary Organizations**, **Unconventional** and **Business**. The following related sub-themes appear of particular interest:

Project management meets with non-traditional application areas: When are guidelines for handling traditional projects helpful or a hindrance? What happens when project management professionals (certified project managers) and laymen in non-traditional fields work together? How is non-traditional organizing different?

Handling projects in non-profit and public organizations: To what extent is the PM logic consistent or inconsistent with non-profit and politically oriented organizations?

Lessons from renewal of companies and innovation for the future: Innovation and strategic change are often designed as a (set of) project(s) where renewal and innovation might be quite drastic. What do previous experiences tell us about future ventures of this type?

Lean Projects: Are there ways to make projects of a standard type even leaner in the future? What are the mechanisms? Do we have to unlearn in order to become more efficient? Is there such a thing as a creativity oriented AND lean project?

Projects and Businesses: A project can be a business entity in itself, it can be imbedded in a business (a project based firm), or it can be a bridge between business entities in a collaborative network. How are paradigms or business models for the relationships in the area emerging? How can “project landscapes” be managed from a business point of view? Which are the practices?

Advancement of theory on temporary organizations and projects: The project area has opened up for investigations related to social science during the last couple of decades, fetching inspiration from organizational theory and neighboring fields. Can the findings this far be consolidated? Or is a “scientific revolution” à la Kuhn in the making?