

Track no. 15: Narrative leadership and organizational sense making

Track coordinators

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Title

Narrative leadership and organizational sense making

Description

This track aims to promote and encourage discussion on the advances of narrative approach to leadership and organization studies. The track calls together theoretical, conceptual as well as empirical contributions.

The track focuses on organizational sense-making from narrative approach. Narratives and stories provide a way of organizing and generating sense of series of actions taking place in organizations; they may also reveal and restructure social relationships and enable wide range of organizational discourses. The idea of the track is to identify narrative and communicative elements that may be perceived to indicate central elements and events of organizational discourse, such as articulation of support/resistance to strategic change in organizational stories or how organizational everyday reality becomes constructed in narratives. In the track we are also interested in presentations which analyze the agency and power-laden nature of narratives and stories in organizational discourse. i.e., how narratives and stories *do* things in organizations.

The track invites critical and alternative perspectives as well as empirical contribution to the topic. Within last decades, narrative research has become very prevalent theoretical and methodological approach in organization studies. Narrative approach can offer an alternative way to analyse organizations and leadership. It exceeds the traditional approaches by emphasizing the role of language and discourse in organizational action

and practices. In addition, it refreshes the ontological and epistemological settings which have been mainly instrumental and functional.

Thus, we invite contributions with empirical, critical and alternative even marginal perspectives in and around narratives in organizations. We are interested in discussing multiple themes related to narrative research.

The papers could involve following themes:

- Storytelling in organizational sensemaking
- The stories managers tell with a view to construct leadership influence
- The manifestations of organizational resistance in storytelling
- Narratives as a resource/approach to organizational change
- Storying organizational identity
- Concealed influence / manipulation in organizational storytelling