

Title: "Institutions in troubled times and places"

When: Thursday, July 5th; 14:00-15:30

Where:

Chair: Renate Meyer, WU Vienna, Austria, and CBS, Denmark

Panelists: Mark de Rond, University of Cambridge, UK

Charlotte Karam, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Marc Ventresca, University of Oxford, UK

In troubled times and places, such as war, refugee crisis, terrorist or cyber-attacks, or other conflicts, our standard forms of organizing and institutionalized patterns of coordination are challenged, our cultural tool kit seems outdated and limited in offering swift response, and our learned roles and identities fail to provide appropriate scripts. In this sub-plenary we question the meaning and role of institutions in such troubled times and places, and discuss whether our organization theories, and institutional theory in particular, 'work' in these unstable contexts, allowing to comprehend and address their needs. We ask what an institutional lens can contribute to studying such contexts and also to engaging with the concerns of those involved in them on a practical level. The sub-plenary panel will discuss *challenges of conducting research*, such as difficulties of data collection and ethical dilemmas, *implications for theorizing*, e.g. its boundary conditions and possibilities for practical relevance, and *potential for mitigating practical concerns* of people immersed in such contexts.

To start and frame the debate, Mark de Rond will talk about practical and ethical issues of doing fieldwork in difficult contexts and the 'usefulness' of an institutional perspective. Charlotte Karam will talk about the challenges of doing research on emergent crises in the context of protracted instability, emphasizing the need to better theorize the salience of informality, and, from a more practical perspective, the need to more closely consider the ethical considerations of "research waste". Marc Ventresca will consider complex institutional contexts as settings for research activity and how these contexts both change research practice and conduce to the focus on inhabited institutions.



Renate Meyer is professor of organization studies and co-Director of the Research Institute for Urban Management & Governance at WU Vienna. She is a part-time professor of institutional theory at CBS and a visiting fellow at UNSW, Sydney. Renate focuses on meaning structures and has studied structural forms of institutional pluralism, institutions as multimodal accomplishments, novel organizational forms and patterns of management ideas in areas of urban governance challenges, most recently the refugee crises in Austria. Renate is a senior editor for Organization Studies. She has been a member of the EGOS Board from 2008 until 2017, serving as Chair from 2011 to 2014. Since 2017, Renate is a member the OMT Executive Board.



Mark de Rond is a professor of organizational ethnography at Judge Business School, University of Cambridge. His research interests are threefold: (1) the variety of human experience in greedy institutions, (2) the experience of being human in high-pressure environments where collaboration is at a premium, and (3) the explanations people give for why things are as they are and not otherwise. His fieldwork has included long stints with Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race crews, military doctors and

nurses at work in a war hospital, peace activists en route from Berlin to Aleppo by foot, and a world-first attempt to scull the navigable length of the river Amazon unsupported. His work has been published in such journals as the Academy of Management Journal and Organization Science and, in the tradition of ethnography, as books.



Charlotte Karam is an Associate Professor and the Associate Dean of Programs at the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut. Her research broadly examines responsible engagement of organizations, with a more recent focus on the career ecosystems of women and refugees and how businesses can adopt responsible and development-oriented initiatives relevant and impactful in developing economies. Animated by concerns about power, gender, and institutional logics, much of her research also draws from and informs the overlapping conversations about public policy and responsible business behavior in the Arab MENA. Recent publications appear in Journal of World Business, Journal of Business Ethics, Business Ethics Quarterly, Business & Society, International Journal of Management Reviews, Asia-Pacific Journal of Management, Career Development International, Women's Studies International Forum and others. Charlotte is an executive board member of the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality. She is also Associate/Area Editor at the Journal of Business Ethics and Business Ethics: European Review.



Marc J Ventresca joined the University of Oxford in 2004. His research and teaching focus on innovation, institutions and infrastructure at the intersection of organizational strategy and economic sociology. Current research investigates processes of institutional politics, innovation, and governance in new markets and in knowledge – intensive industries (financial markets, higher education, distributed policy initiatives, and ecosystem services); and social innovation infrastructure in complex institutional context. He does considerable service with professional agencies, journals, and related capacity-building. He works closely with 'systems change' initiatives in the UK and Canada. He is Academic Lead for 'Ideas to Impact' (I2I) initiative, a collaboration with the Oxford Sciences Division in support of science enterprise and innovation. He is Research Lead for the EY Beacon Oxford collaboration on corporate purpose and transformation. He works with colleagues at the Banff Center for Leadership on #AltNow, 'Hacking inequality in the Canadian economy'. He has held various advisory roles with units at the World Economic Forum, Global Hubs, Global Thinkers Forum, and Participatory City. Follow Marc @marcventresca.