

Call for abstracts

Open Stream

Critical Management Studies: Beyond the Conference Theme

Critical Management Studies has long encompassed different traditions of critique and different ways of questioning management and organisational life. It has also drawn freely on ideas and methods from beyond management and organisation studies. At its strongest, such work has refused to take the categories through which management describes itself as given, asking instead how particular forms of organisation, authority and knowledge came to acquire their apparent necessity. This open stream provides a space for contributions that speak to this broad critical tradition but do not fall readily within the conference's more specifically themed streams, including work that sits outside, alongside, and in productive dialogue with the conference theme itself.

This year's conference is hosted by the Department of Organisation, Work and Technology at Lancaster University Management School, which has a long-standing tradition of critical and interdisciplinary inquiry into the forms through which organisations, work and technology have been constituted, transformed and contested. Reflecting this tradition, the open stream welcomes work from management and organisation studies and from a wide range of disciplines including sociology, political economy, history, philosophy, geography, anthropology, psychology, cultural and gender studies, decolonial and postcolonial studies, science and technology studies, and labour and employment studies. We particularly welcome work that uses these encounters not merely to add another perspective to management studies, but to disturb some of the assumptions through which its objects of inquiry have conventionally been constituted.

In keeping with the conference theme, we are particularly interested in the relations between critical ideas developed within universities and the worlds of work, organisation, technology, politics and everyday life beyond them. What happens to critical concepts when they travel beyond academic settings? Where do forms of organising studied, imagined or advocated within CMS already exist in practice? How are critical ideas translated, resisted, appropriated or transformed within workplaces, institutions and communities? Equally, what forms of knowledge, critique and organisational expectations emerging "beyond the Academy" might challenge or reconfigure the normative questions CMS scholars ask from within? To this end, we also welcome contributions that critically interrogate the conference theme itself, and whether the injunction to move "beyond the Academy" risks reproducing demands for relevance, impact, visibility or performative engagement that may weaken the autonomy, seriousness or distinctiveness of scholarly work as such.

We therefore invite theoretical, conceptual, empirical, methodological and practice-based contributions across (and beyond) the broad range of CMS. We welcome work crossing disciplinary or thematic boundaries, research concerned with geographical, cultural and historical contexts that remain underrepresented within management and organisation studies, and contributions addressing emerging phenomena for which established critical vocabularies may still be inadequate.

The open stream is intended to preserve a space for critical work that does not find an obvious home elsewhere in the conference programme. Its point of departure is therefore less a

prescribed subject than a disposition towards inquiry: a willingness to question what has become settled, necessary or self-evident in the organisation of work, management and social life. We welcome contributions that extend established critical traditions, place them under pressure, or find other conceptual resources through which the present might be rendered differently intelligible.

Please submit paper abstracts of approximately 500 words and any queries for consideration to Peter Watt via peter.watt@lancaster.ac.uk