

Forming Alliances

Theodore R. Schatzki

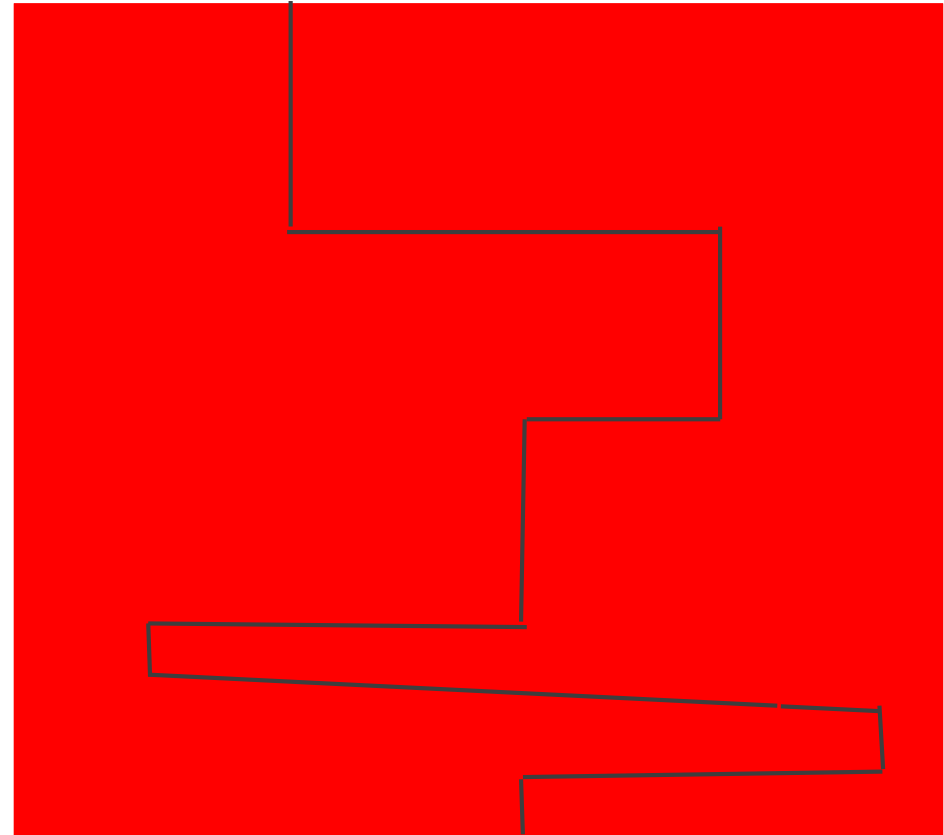
This talk is based on an essay that attempts an alliance between my theory of practices and the theory of institutions due to Roger Friedland. The essay begins by explaining the idea of a theoretical alliance, briefly discussing sorts of phenomena that practice theories are not likely to propitiously or exhaustively analyze. The essay then develops the alliance. It discusses how the two theories analyze institutions as practices and roots the alliance in the idea that the practice plenum (in my sense) evinces multiple institutional orders of variable spatial form that can hang together and coevolve in different combinations. The discussion then zeroes in on a prominent feature of Friedland's account: institutional logics and the fundamental principles-values (institutional substances) that organize them. I suggest that these principles-values closely correspond to what I call "general understandings." I also argue that general understandings must be supplemented by ends (and rules) to do the work attributed to institutional substances, in particular, laying down the normative sens of enacting practices. It follows that the institutional orders found in the plenum of practice are constellations of practices, participants, and objects organized by commanding general understandings and teleologies. A final section discusses two further convergences between Friedland's and my accounts: both promulgate flat ontologies and recognize the centrality of politics to institutional change.

Bowland North Seminar Room 6
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All welcome



Practice Theory at Lancaster



Ted Schatzki will be joining the Sociology Department part time, starting in 2020. He is currently Professor of Geography and Philosophy at the University of Kentucky.

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