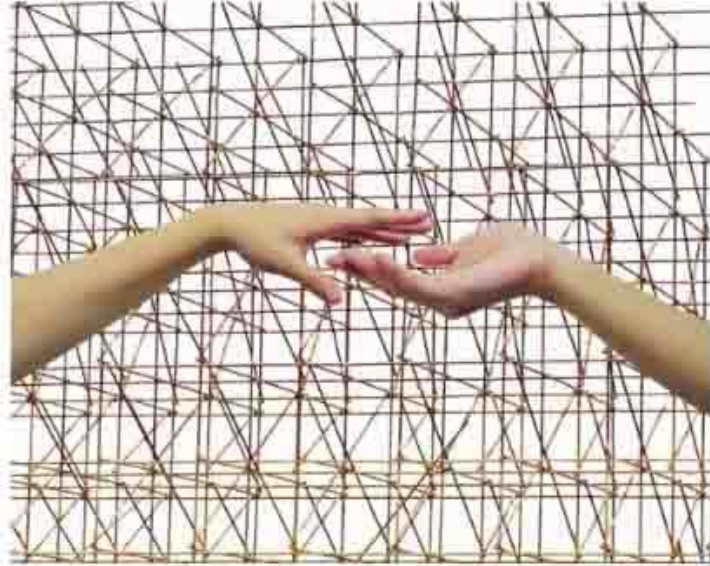


Postcards from the Practice Theory Course at Lancaster, 2022



Dear successor

It might not seem obvious why you would enroll in a course devoted to the strange issue of practice theory in order to engage with the material you are about to collect - be it „open strategy“, „organizational space“ or „partial organization“. However, practice theory is indeed a promising lens to apply to your research which will alter the way you engage with what you are about to study. Luckily enough, there's a unique opportunity to learn more about this approach with the help of some of the most well-known experts in the field: The Lancaster Practice Theory Course. To warn you with the attached picture: This is a rather unfamiliar way to frame your research - but it's one very much worthwhile! I thus very much recommend you to travel to Lancaster (if conducted on site again) and take a week to engage with this vibrant community of scholars!

Yours sincerely,
Your predecessor



To:
Whoever next
joins our team



Dear research team

I hope y'all haven't missed me too much, as I have not been present in the office for the past few days. But as you know I've been attending the practice theory course at Lancaster University.

I have really enjoyed my time at the course, its been some intense days, but I have learned a lot about theories of practices! I'm excited to talk with you all again about my new learnings and take always from this course, which I know can help us greatly in finishing that article we are trying to write atm about connecting food, mobility and housing practices!

So excited about that, and excited to see you all again!

Best regards

Amanda

Ps as you can tell on my postcard I've encountered some really interesting cat-theorist, which I can't wait to tell you more about



Dear Melanie,

Greetings from Odense, Denmark!

You have mentioned to me that you were interested in applying practice theories in your PhD project. I can recommend that you sign up for the University of Lancaster Practice Theory course next year. It is taught by the very experts in this area and I'm sure that you will learn a lot about the key aspects of practices and how they are embodied, how they change, and most importantly, how to study and capture them.

Please be warned that it will be an intense week and be prepared for lots of readings, as well as some homework! I recommend that you keep some snacks available close to you for the eating events, during which you can meet practice theorists from all over the world.

I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did!

All the best,
Anna



Dear Ola,

Greetings from the practice theory course at Lancaster University! It's been an intense and very enriching week with very many new questions raised and perspectives gained.

Here's an article reference you might find interesting:

Blue, S. (2019). Institutional rhythms: Combining practice theory and rhythm analysis to conceptualise processes of institutionalisation. Time & Society, 28(3), 922–950. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0961463X17702165>

*Best regards,
Björn*



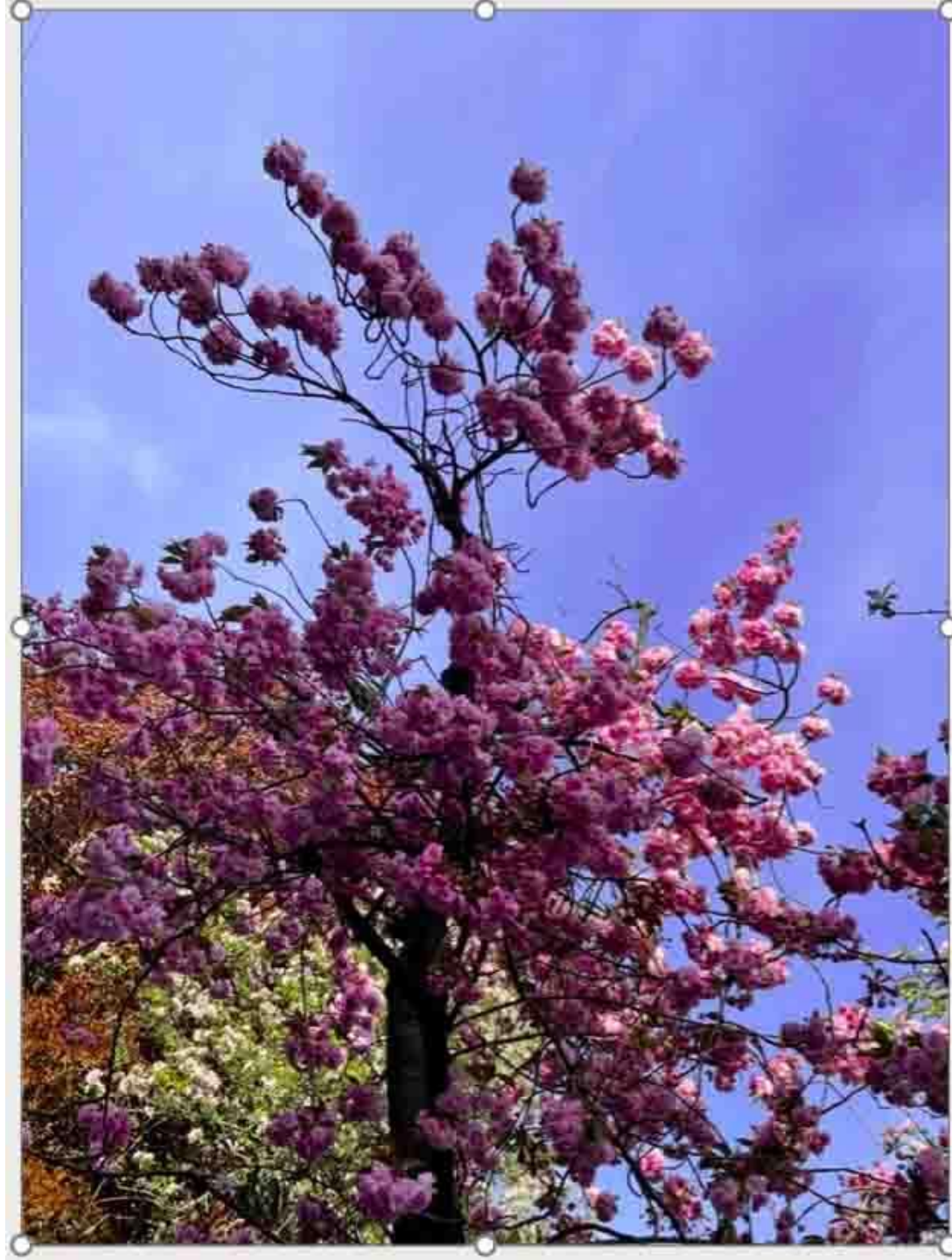
Dear Hana,
I have just completed an intensive 5-day course on theories of practice, and I believe the course would share some insights for your masters dissertation concerning the building practices involved in vernacular architecture - especially the sessions concerning materiality and social change.

I do believe that the course would be a great asset for your academic career as it is an opportunity to meeting researchers around the world with diverse interests but an underlying common interest in practices. One particular aspect of the course that resonated with me was enhancing my learning through doing group work; many ideas were flowing and as a team we managed to harness them and create two different projects in a small amount of time! Of course, there were some difficulties, namely efficiently organising the group work (but I guess that is all part of the fun still!).

If you happen to be continuing your research on vernacular architecture, Elizabeth, Stan and Ted will certainly provide thought provoking discussions on how to frame your research in terms of theories of practice.

All the best,

Bob



Hi Cansin,

Here is another round of postcards ritual, this time I can say greetings from (online) Lancaster uni course week all the while being in CPH.

I have been thru such a hectic but cool week together with the experts of the practice theory field and people like me who want to have a better understanding of the theory going forward. Meeting with new people always excites me you know that, but in set ups like this is just purely fascinating. I had a really good experience and wanted to share with you. Hope the weather in Edinburgh is as sunny as it is in Copenhagen now!

*Kisses,
Ece*

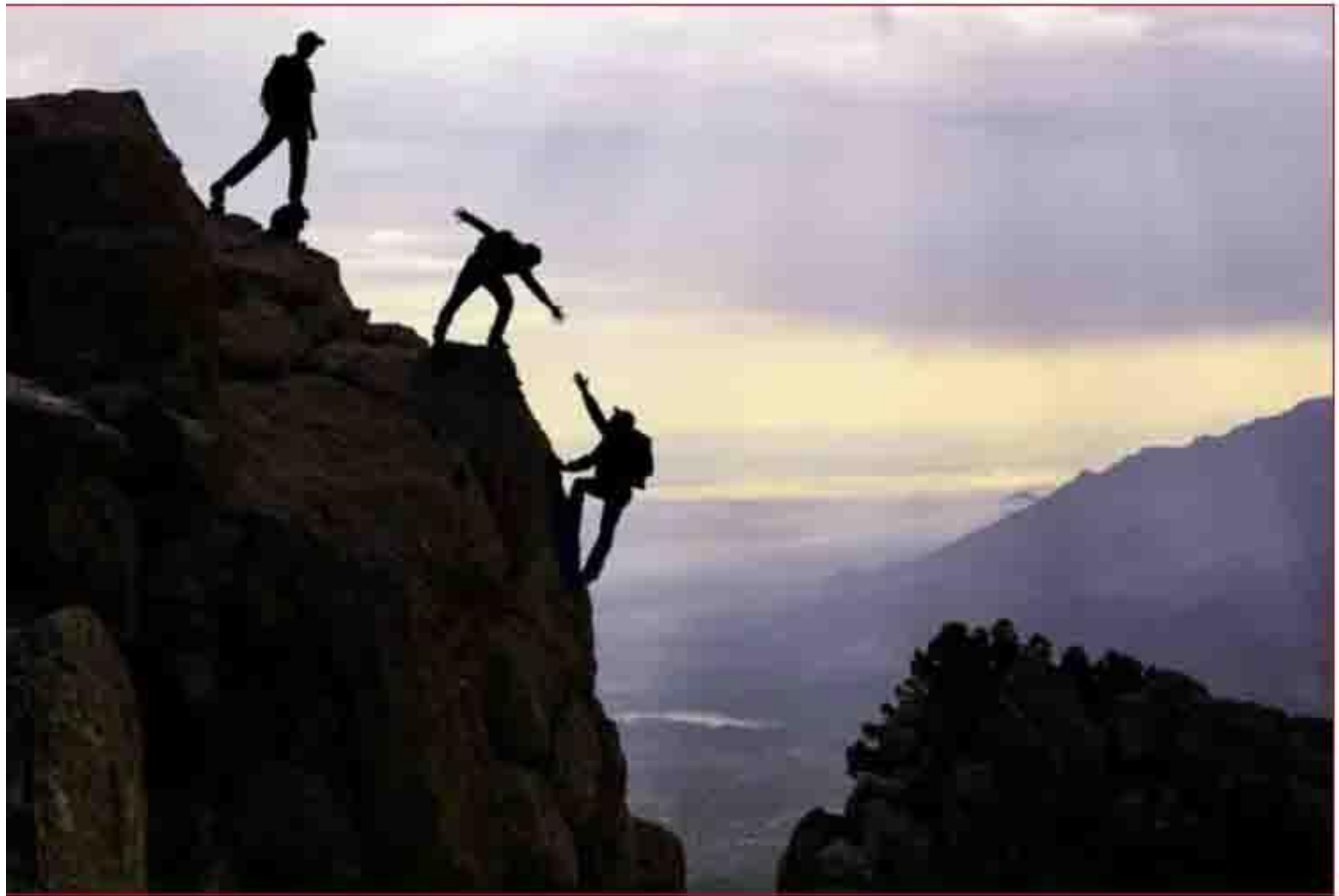


Hi Alessandro,

It's mostly UK weather here in the home office. The travel to get here was without issue, although preparation took quite some effort. (The documents I had to get through... :)). You asked me about the point of going here: if my research would contribute to practice theory, or if practice theory would contribute to my research? Now that my stay here is running to an end, I can tell that I take a lot from here: The souvenirs I picked up are mostly pictures of landscapes, in which we can place my own little portraits. I can't help but think that those change the landscape as well.

All the best,

Evert



POSTCARD

Dear Friend,

I hope you are doing well! Sorry for not responding for a while, I have been busy learning all about theories of practice (+ doing some very important prep work for the course!).

You would have loved how interactive the programme was, with many opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussion + also make connections to keep interactions going way beyond the course itself. I've met a range of academics from many different backgrounds, who are using practice theories in many different ways. This has been a great inspiration + I look forward to telling you about how theories of practice can be utilised in studying urban gardening practices, to algorithms and everything in between!

For now, I am ready to get away from the screen and up into the hills!

Best,
Jemma

FROM:

Dear Kathrin,

As I know that you appreciate to question that which is assumed to be normal, I would love to tell you about what I have learned about a theory called Practice Theory next time we see each other.

The central unit of analysis being social practices, it opens whole new possibilities for grasping the world. Be prepared to be amazed.

Best,
Julija



Greetings from my field work!



Hi Steve

Here's me after that course you suggested I go on - my hair's shorter now! Pretty intense, but so much to think about - great ideas and methods (groupwork - making podcasts, fieldwork and stuff) for thinking about social change, using the small units of practice to lift it all up a level and start thinking differently with people. Albeit a bit of a challenge that! But maybe it'll spark some new discussion about how we move around, how we make a better future. I guess I need to go and join a policymaking department next and try to change the world from the inside. You should try it sometime!

Sorry Steve got to rush - I'll tell you all about after my nap!

Julia

A woman wearing a red hat, a light blue button-down shirt, and a dark skirt is standing in a paved courtyard. She is pointing her right hand towards a large, multi-story stone building with a crenellated roofline. The building is made of light-colored stone and has several arched windows. To the left of the woman is another stone building with a dark pipe running down its side. The sky is clear and blue.

Hej Sebastian, hej Mette,
Greetings from Lancaster! The
weather is beautiful here and the
city has great architecture to
explore.

We had an intensive week here
looking at all kinds of practices –
especially those of dogs. A great
perspective to look at things! I
will tell you more when I am
back at Aarhus.

See you next week!

Med venlig hilsen, Juliane

Greetings from the Practice Theory course! The weather was terrible but thankfully we were meeting in the virtual world. You would have enjoyed the course and hopefully you will consider doing it next year. During this week we have prepared a blog, a charting exercise, produced a podcast and carried out some fieldwork... hence the photo of Bella! It was great to meet other people working and studying within the field of Practice Theory and of course meet the experts! The course has expanded and broadened my understanding of the theory. A really enjoyable week, thanks to all! Lorraine



PRACTICE THEORIES

LANCASTER 2022

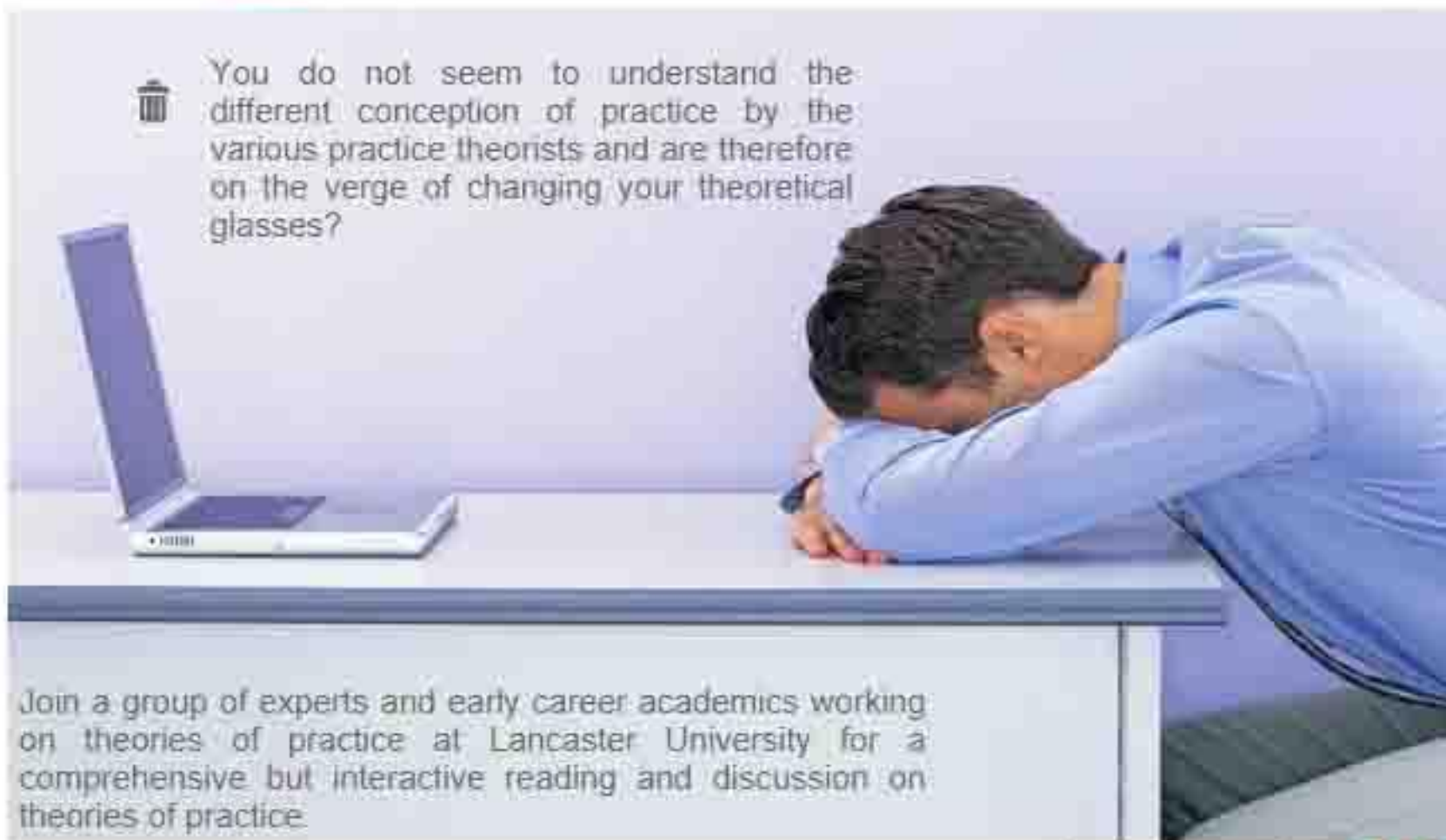


- Hei,
- I just finished the course on practice theories. It was very interesting and engaging! Some really creative teaching techniques! Maybe we could adapt them for our own teaching.
- It was very nice to be able posing questions to the original authors of some of the texts. Even though it was online, it worked out pretty well.
- I highly recommend taking that course! I know that we've already learned a lot about PTs, but this just takes it to another level 😊

Dear Nur,



You do not seem to understand the different conception of practice by the various practice theorists and are therefore on the verge of changing your theoretical glasses?



Join a group of experts and early career academics working on theories of practice at Lancaster University for a comprehensive but interactive reading and discussion on theories of practice.



03.05.2022

Dear Future Participant of
the Practice Theory Course
at Lancaster.

A tip for you: take at least two weeks
off before the course to prepare and
ask/hire someone to provide you with
food during the course!

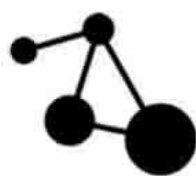
You're welcome,
Veteran



Dear Julie,

You may recall my excitement about the online practice theories course. I'm so glad I get to do it this year and I had a great time meeting and working with everyone. I cannot believe how much we have learnt from this, and we even did Podcast and fieldwork which are super fun. It has really broadened my perspectives and give me more confidence to continue my research journey 😊

Nicole



Dear Marlyne,

Just getting out of the Social practice 5 days course. It has been demanding, but also so engaging and interesting. I feel lucky I've been able to participate to such an event, reflecting and discussing theories of social practices in such deep terms! I didn't think I would say that one day but here we are!!!!

Those days were all about how to reflect around social practice theory in a broad sense, and helped me better understand how it helps to frame the questions and the problem we're posing. It's been 5 days full of bundles, complexes and constellation... but I'll tell you more about it when I get to see you when I am back. The course helped me realized how important such theories are in imagining change, dynamics, and I am getting back to working on the project surer than ever that we're using a really relevant approach to reach our research goals.

Anyway, just a quick note to tell you a bit about this trip away from reality. Now back to it, and I'll see you soon.

Cheers,

Orlane



April 05, 2022

Dear Charlotte,

I am sorry that I could not be in Saarbrücken and celebrate your birthday with you. But, the PhD course was very interesting and helpful to me. I learned a lot about practice theories and got some new ideas how to conceptualise values and urban planning in a practice theoretical way. On the front page, you show a little detail of my fieldwork that I have done with my group. I look forward to telling you more.

Best regards,

Sabine

Charlotte Beckbüssinger
Street of Freedom 12
66111 Saarbrücken
Germany

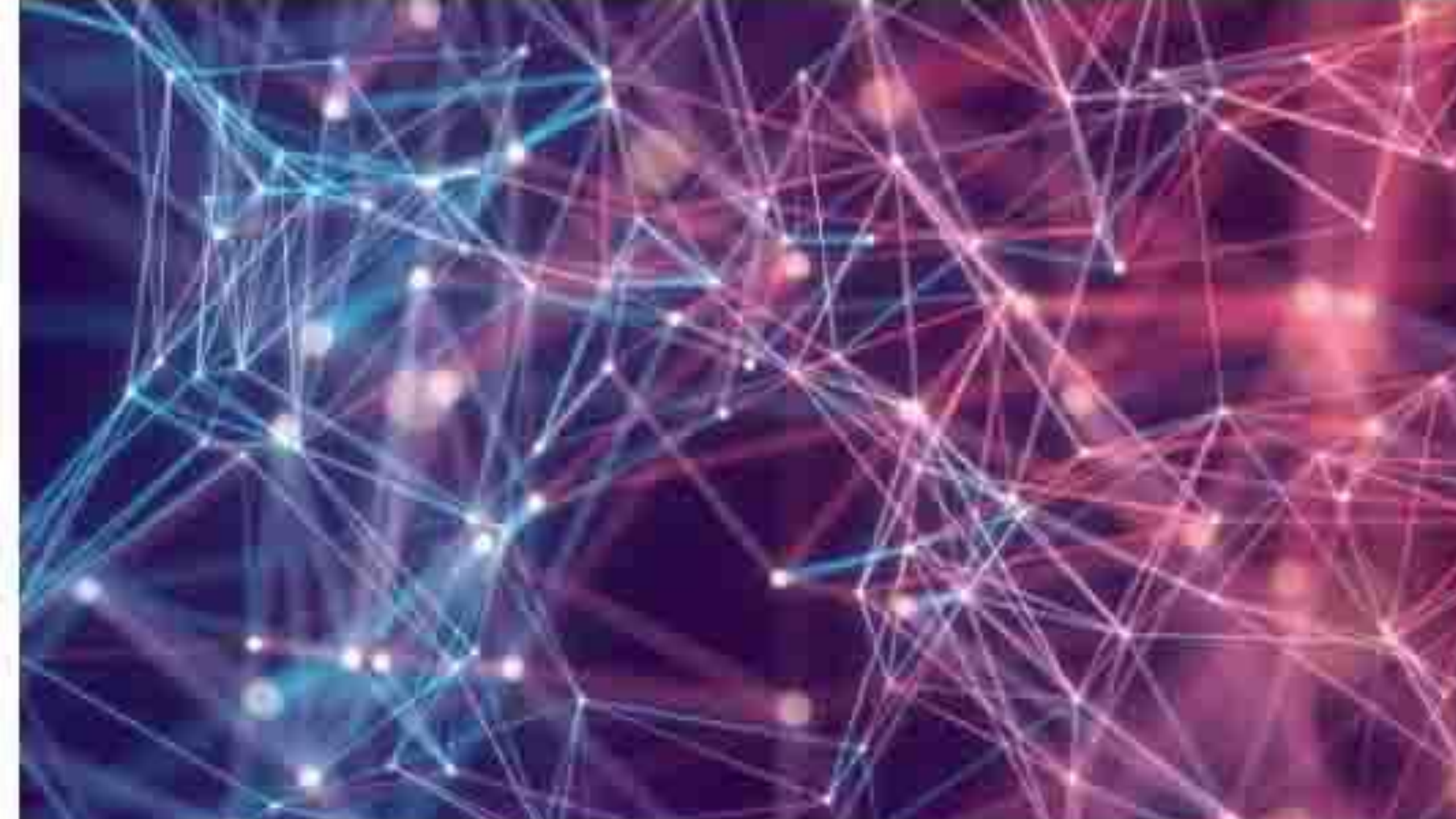
Dear pal

I'm writing from home and am looking forward to a swim later to relieve the cognitive tension of attending a condensed module at university this week. Practice Theory. It's been interesting if a little tiring. I think you'd enjoy it if we plan to meet up and have a chat about some of the ideas and how they could be applied to social work practice. I'm excited to explore how literature re. phenomenology, fits with practice theory in relation to 'home-visiting' practices and how this interacts with training and policy.

Off now for a splash,

Seeya

Kathryn



Dear Maria,

you warned me that the Lancaster Practice Theory intensive course would be intense, but really well structured and overall I agree. The photo to me symbolizes that it's practices all over and how lost we as researchers might get if we get into this web. Coming to the week with a scattered overview of all the readings and lectures, because preparing next to work and my own teaching obligations, was not as perfect as I wished, it still helped me in understanding why you insist to never speak of practice theory in singular. I would have wished we spent more time on going into the texts and theories in more detail during the breakout sessions, but podcast and fieldwork kept us busy. While meeting so many other people just getting their heads around practice theories was extremely interesting and provoked good conversations, it came to the downside of not going deeper into the theories. Having the lectures as a preparation has the advantage of devoting time spend together in front of the screen more productively, however it also would have been nice to spend some of the time together in lectures and take the discussion from there. Especially, for our discussion with Matt Watson it would be nice to have a short presentation by him first before diving into the Q&A session.

Overall, I am now looking forward to our even more informed discussion of what if any practice theories can bring to social innovation research and see how we can do without having any historians on board.

Best wishes,

Marthe



Hi Sarah,

I was just thinking of you, as I participated on an online course of a Practice Theory. It reminded me on our discussion a year ago or so, on the possibility to use practice theory in your PhD and in our field of research.

If you are still thinking about Practice Theory, I think you should consider this course – I think they will organize it next year again. There is quite a lot of work in advance, and the course week is r-e-a-l-l-y intensive. But if you want get very good overview on practice theory and also to meet other researcher using practice theory, I think it is completely worth it.

Let me know if you want to know more.

Greetings, Salla

P.S. The picture is from your fieldwork, where we looked into the practices of enjoying coffee

HI

I HOPE YOU ARE WELL. I AM WRITING TO YOU FROM AN INTENSIVE WEEK IN LANCASTER ON PRACTICE THEORY. I WOULD CERTAINLY RECOMMEND YOU SIGNING UP FOR NEXT YEAR'S COURSE IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE. IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE JOINING WITH STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND EXPERTS IN THE FIELD - ELIZABETH, TED AND STAN. I REALLY ENJOYED THE COURSE WHICH INVOLVED LOTS OF THINKING, DISCUSSION AND CREATIVITY. ALSO A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH MY FELLOW COURSE PARTICIPANTS.

ALL THE BEST

SHARON



Dear team,

Ben and I just finished the Lancaster Practice Theory Course.

It's a pity that you weren't able to join!

It was a full five days of intense learning and fun and creative course work, including making a podcast (we have to try out this cool format ourselves!) and researching practices of dog ownership (in my case – great topic for somebody who loves dogs 😊), apart from many inspiring discussions of course.

I learnt a lot and look forward to practicing practice theory more systematically in my own research. ...I'll tell you more when I'm back at the office.

Best wishes,
Tania



To:
The OM Team
UZH



Sunny regards from Lancaster!

Zoom