

Workshop: “Longitudinal Qualitative Research Design” with Paula Jarzabkowski

March 12th, 2013

In recent times research on management and organizations has made a shift from a static to a more dynamic view of organizations. This shift has led to an increased concern for process theories in research on management and organizations. The use of organization theories like Giddens’ structuration theory or Luhmann’s systems theory and the study of phenomena such as path dependence, organizational learning and change, sensemaking, organizational routines and capabilities – to name just a few – often requires an analysis of data that stem from several and/or longer time intervals. For researcher, this requisite raises practical questions concerning the choice of an appropriate time span, a meaningful structuring of the chosen time span, the collection, analysis, interpretation and integration of data from different points in time and subsequently concerning a meaningful and coherent presentation of results.

This workshop with Paula Jarzabkowski (Professor of Strategic Management at Aston Business School, Aston University, Birmingham) addresses PhD students who are interested in studying processes and phenomena that encompass several and/or longer time intervals and who want to learn more about the application of longitudinal research designs within the scope of a qualitative research program. First, there will be a teaching session addressing general issues related to longitudinal research designs like the ones raised above. Second, Paula Jarzabkowski will provide a paper based on her own PhD thesis containing a longitudinal analysis using retrospective data. She will deconstruct this paper in reverse in order to allow for a detailed understanding of the steps which she has taken to get to her final results. Third, there will be a short session about getting and particularly maintaining field access. And finally, Paula Jarzabkowski will offer a longer questions and answers session in which the PhD students can discuss issues that have come up during the preparation and/or execution of their own research design with her and with each other.