



Field-Configuring Events: Time, Space and Relations

5th Meeting of the Research Network

20.-21.4.2015

Martin Klimas, Untitled
from the series „Sonic Sculptures“; here: Miles Davies, Pharaohs Dance

Why are we here?

- > „Scientific Networks“ are a program of the German Research Foundation (DFG) with the aims to
 - > “offer young researchers the opportunity to engage in scientific exchange and cooperation on topics of common interest” and
 - > “strengthen the ties to the international research community”.
- > Various (partly joint) research projects on FCEs by members of the network
- > Previous very positive experience with such a network > Gordon’s idea to apply for funding for a network on FCEs!

Aims of this research network

Different disciplines are interested in “events” and their role in wider organizational fields. Using the concept of field-configuring events (FCE) as a hook, we aim to...

- > Develop the **conceptual** foundation of FCEs and their impact on organizations and organizational fields through interdisciplinary exchange, e.g. by comparing different types of events in different field contexts, discussing processes and mechanisms of field configuration, exploring new types of events
- > Explore different (and new) ways of researching FCE **methodologically**
- > Share, discuss and develop our research on FCE **personally**

Impressions from past workshops



Where we are

- > Freie Universität Berlin founded in 1948 as a counterpoint to the Soviet-influenced Berliner Universität (since 1949 Humboldt-Universität) in the buildings of the former *Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of Science (KWG)*
- > Building at Boltzmannstr. 20 was built in 1936 and used as *the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for Physics* between 1937-1943
 - > Founded in 1917 with Albert Einstein as first Director, located in Einstein's private flat
 - > Since 1930 supported by the Rockefeller foundation, Einstein emigrated in 1933
 - > 1938 discovery of nuclear fission by Otto Hahn and Fritz Straßmann at the *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for Chemistry* (around the corner)
 - > 1939 after the war acquisition of the KWI for Physics by the *Waffenamt* (German Army Weapons Agency) with Otto Hahn and Werner Heisenberg (Universität Leipzig) as research directors
 - > 1942 Werner Heisenberg called as Director of the KWI for Physics
 - > 1942/43 building of a bunker laboratory for the German nuclear energy project, now the FUB library archive
 - > 1944 the KWI for Physics moves to Hechingen (Baden Württemberg), the buildings at Boltzmannstr. go to the Berlin water supply company
 - > Since 1949 used by FUB



Guiding themes for our discussions so far

Time

- Which temporal dimensions are relevant for distinguishing different types of FCE with different (short-term, long-term) outcomes or effects?
- How can the temporality (temporal limitation, singular or periodic occurrence, etc.) of FCE be empirically examined and methodologically used?

Space

- How are FCE spatially positioned and designed? Which spatial aspects influence the outcomes/effects of FCE?
- How can the spatial boundedness of FCE be used methodologically and, at the same time, how can their „unbounded“ effects be empirically examined?

Relations

- What are the relational effects of single FCE and how do these outlive the events? How do different events interact in producing relational effects?
- How can social network analysis or similar research methods be applied to examine which relational effects of FCE?

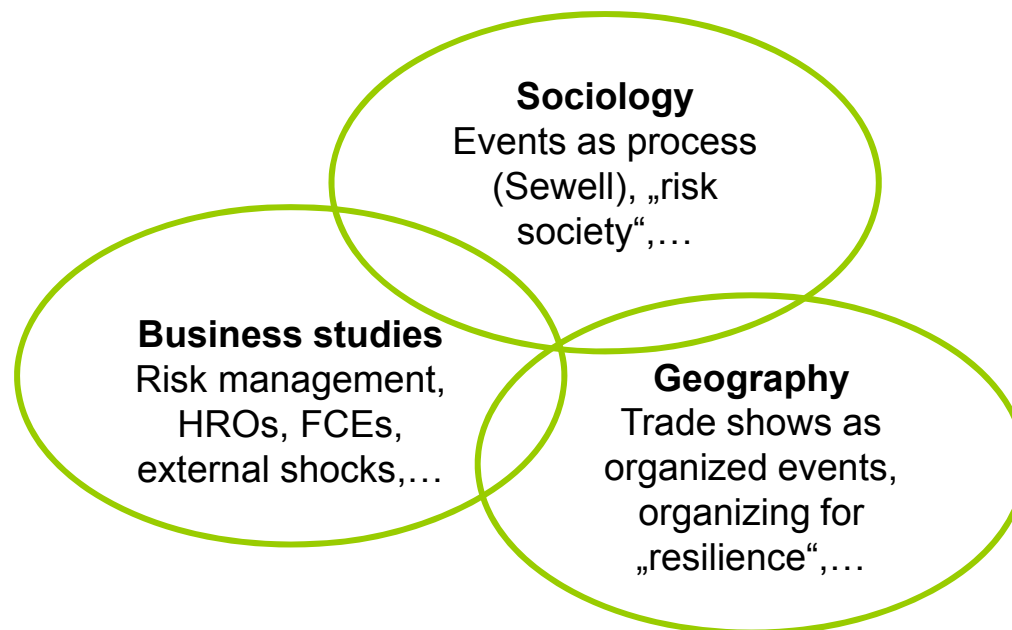
This workshop's theme

- > “Broadening the FCE perspective towards unexpected events”
 - > Organizations and risks
 - > Organizing of uncertainty
 - > The unplanned outcomes of organized events and vice versa
 - > ...

- > Background: growing research focus on „organizing uncertainty“ at Freie Universität Berlin

Introducing network members

- Different disciplinary perspectives on organized and unexpected events
- Main research interest regarding FCEs and other kinds of events?



Outlook on the research network

- > Main output: Special Issue in Industry & Innovation on „Field-configuring events as arenas for innovation and learning?“ (E. Schüßler, G. Grabher, G. Müller-Seitz)
 - > **Animated times: Critical transitions and the maintenance of field-configuring events** (B. Leca, C. Rüling, D. Puthod): conflicts and local embeddedness of events as drivers for learning
 - > **Civic events in a dynamic local field. The role of participation for social innovation** (S. Citroni): production and consumption of sociability events
 - > **Conferences as sequential arenas for creating new sustainable fields** (H. Nissila): change at the interface of commercial, institutional and social innovations; niche-internal and niche-external processes
 - > **Crossing boundaries: Exploring the London Olympics 2012 as a field-configuring event** (J. Thiel, G. Grabher): which fields are configured by events?
- > *The field-configuring impact of events cannot simply be captured as either field-creating, field-changing or field-maintaining.*
- > *Rather, a more thorough differentiation of field configuration according to the multiple contexts in which events are embedded and which they affect is needed.*

Analytical model (Schüßler et al., 2015)

Sites of innovation and learning

Institutional field level

Geographical field level

Event level

Commercial

Institutional

Conflict and tensions

...

Types of innovation and learning

...

Social

Learning from past events

Interaction and sense-making

Modes of innovation and learning

