

Organization Studies

Call for Papers

Special Issue: Connectivity in and around Organizations

Guest Editors

Darl G. Kolb, Graduate School of Management, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Marleen Huysman, KIN Research Group, VU University, The Netherlands

Kristine Dery, Center for Systems Information Research, MIT, Australia & USA

Anca Metiu, Senior Editor, *Organization Studies*, ESSEC Business School, France

Deadline for paper submissions: September 30th 2018

The journal is seeking papers for a Special Issue that reflects and considers the impact of ubiquitous and near-constant connectivity in and around organizations.

In 2008, *Organization Studies* published an article entitled, ‘Exploring the Metaphor of Connectivity: Attributes, Dimensions and Duality’ (Kolb, 2008). A lot has happened in the world of connectivity in the past 10 years. Following the BlackBerry (‘CrackBerry’) era, the release of the iPhone in 2007 accelerated the ‘smartphone’ era. To be sure, the topics of mobile communication practice (Dery, Kolb, & MacCormick, 2014; MacCormick, Dery, & Kolb, 2012; Mazmanian, Orlikowski, & Yates, 2013; Sergeva, Huysman, van den Hooff, & Soekijad, 2017) virtual work and collaboration (Fayard & Metiu, 2014; Kolb, Collins, & Lind, 2008), work-life balance (Bakker & Leiter, 2010; Mazmanian, 2013), perceptions of proximity (Leonardi, Treem, & Jackson, 2010; Wilson, O’Leary, Metiu, & Jett, 2008), cognitive and socio-emotional effects of hyper-connectivity (Carr, 2010; Turkle, 2011) have received considerable attention in the years since the past decade. However, with some notable exceptions (Bakker & Leiter, 2010; Flyverbom, Leonardi, Stohl, & Stohl, 2016; Leonardi & Barley, 2010; Orlikowski & Scott, 2008), theoretical developments have been relatively sparse in this relatively new, yet important field of inquiry.

We believe the time is right for a dedicated collection of scholarly work that advances our theoretical and practical understanding of the unprecedented connective context within and around organizations. Our intent is to produce a provocative and memorable Special Issue of *Organization Studies*. We therefore invite refreshing scholarly discourse on what constitutes connectivity (what it *is* and/or what it *means*), including its antecedents, its social materiality and the conceptual relationships that underpin and/or define connectivity, thereby offering advances in theory. Meanwhile, we expect critical evaluations of some of the ‘consequences’ and implications for practice. We are also seeking empirical studies that illuminate the subject and provide evidence and evocation for theory-building or theory-challenging.

Objectives of the Special Issue:

- To advance our understanding of how connectivity affects organizational life
- To stimulate dialogue and debate on connectivity as a dimension of contemporary life
- To offer fresh, empirically-based insights into the practice of connecting with others through technology

We invite papers that will address, but are not limited to the following themes:

- new perspectives on mobile human-computer interaction,
- advancements and/or challenges to socio-technical and sociomaterial theoretical lenses,
- the integration of work and non-work dimensions of life,
- the stresses and strains associated with work-life integration, and
- isolation and alienation that accompany and contradict increased connectedness.

We are particularly interested in papers that provoke new ways of thinking about questions such as, but not limited to:

- How do face-to-face organisational processes and practices compete for attention with ubiquitous personal connective technologies?
- Who decides when and how much organizational members connect or disconnect?
- What are the implications of near-constant connectivity on health and wellness?
- The paradox of autonomy: How do independent individuals still work collaboratively?
- How are work practices co-evolving with connective technologies?
- How are organizational structures co-evolving with connective technologies?

Papers may be conceptual, theoretical and/or empirical in nature, with a preference for empirical-based theoretical work. While qualitative research may be most appropriate for supporting new theoretical directions and critical perspectives, quantitative research is also welcome, as long as it addresses new questions and contributes to the conceptual conversation in straightforward (accessible) language.

The scope of papers is intentionally broad, but papers should have a bearing on ‘organizational’ phenomena, as per the overall purpose and general guidelines of *Organization Studies*.

Submissions

Please submit papers through the journal’s online submission system, SAGE track, by visiting <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/orgstudies>. Create your user account (if you have not done so already), and for “Manuscript Type,” choose the corresponding Special Issue. All papers that enter the review process will be double-blind reviewed, following the journal’s normal review process and criteria. You may submit papers for this Special Issue through SAGE Track **between September, 15th and 30th 2018.**

For administrative support and general queries, please contact:

Sophia Tzagaraki, Managing Editor, *Organization Studies*: osofficer@gmail.com.

References

- Bakker, A. B., & Leiter, M. P. (2010). *Work Engagement: A handbook of essential theory and research*. New York: Psychology Press: Taylor and Francis Group.
- Carr, N. (2010). *The shallows: How the internet is changing the way we think, read and remember*. London: Atlantic.
- Dery, K., Kolb, D. G., & MacCormick, J. (2014). Working with flow: The evolving practice of smartphone technologies. *European Journal of Information Systems*, 23(5), 558-570.
- Fayard, A.-L., & Metiu, A. (2014). The role of writing in distributed collaboration. *Organization Science*, 25(5), 1391-1413.
- Flyverbom, M., Leonardi, P. M., Stohl, C., & Stohl, M. (2016). The management of visibilities in the digital age. *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 98-109.
- Kolb, D. G. (2008). Exploring the metaphor of connectivity: Attributes, dimensions and duality. *Organization Studies*, 29(1), 127-144.
- Kolb, D. G., Collins, P. D., & Lind, E. A. (2008). Requisite connectivity: Finding flow in a not-so-flat world. *Organizational Dynamics*, 37(2), 181-189.
- Leonardi, P. M., & Barley, S. R. (2010). What's under construction here? Social action, materiality, and power in constructivist studies of technology and organizing. *The Academy of Management Annals*, 4(1), 1-51.
- Leonardi, P. M., Treem, J. W., & Jackson, M. H. (2010). The connectivity paradox: Using technology to both decrease and increase perceptions of distance in distributed work arrangements. *Journal of Applied Communications Research*, 38(1), 85-105.
- MacCormick, J., Dery, K., & Kolb, D. G. (2012). Engaged or just connected?: Smartphones and employee engagement. *Organizational Dynamics*, 41(3), 194-201.
- Mazmanian, M. (2013). Avoiding the trap of constant connectivity: When congruent frames allow for heterogeneous practices. *Academy of Management Journal*, 56(5), 1225-1250.
- Mazmanian, M., Orlikowski, W. J., & Yates, J. (2013). The autonomy paradox: The implications of mobile email devices for knowledge professionals. *Organization Science*, 24(5), 1337-1357.
- Orlikowski, W. J., & Scott, S. V. (2008). Sociomateriality: Challenging the separation of technology, work and organization. *The Academy of Management Annals*, 2(1), 433-474.
- Sergeva, A., Huysman, M., van den Hooff, B., & Soekijad, M. (2017). Through the eyes of others: How onlookers shape the use of mobile technology at work. *MIS Quarterly*, 41(4), 1153-1178.
- Turkle, S. (2011). *Alone together: Why we expect more from technology and less from each other*. New York: Basic Books.
- Wilson, J. M., O'Leary, M. B., Metiu, A., & Jett, Q. R. (2008). Perceived proximity in virtual work: Explaining the paradox of far-but-close. *Organization Studies*, 29(7), 979-1002.