



Workshop and Early Career Colloquium:

WHERE WORK/LIFE HAPPENS: SPACES AND PLACES IN FLUX

Aalto University School of Business, Finland

June 7-9, 2023

Mentors and keynote speakers:

Professor Karen Dale

Lancaster University Management School, UK

Embodying the Economy: Themes in the Spatial Negotiation of Productivity

Professor Silvia Gherardi

University of Trento, Italy

The fluidity of affective spaces enacted by organizational practices

Professor Chris Steyaert

University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Feeling out of place: A queer phenomenological orientation to diverse space

Assistant professor Ari Kuismin

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

In the beat: The rhythmic production of organizational space

Panelists:

Professor Ewald Kibler

Aalto University School of Business, Finland

Professor Rebecca Piekkari

Aalto University School of Business, Finland

Call for papers

Space and place have become key analytic concepts for the study of organizations and organizing. While organizational space refers to “the built environments that emerge from organizational activities, objects, arrangements, and social practices” (Stephenson et al., 2020: 797), place can be understood as “a unique location (either geographical or digital), endowed with a material form (either crafted by nature or by humans) and a socially constructed set of meanings” (Cartel et al., 2021: 351). Being intimately intertwined, the concepts of space and place draw our attention to the locus of organization and its implications for organizing people and ‘things’.

Scholars interested in space and place show how organization activities are embedded in different sites such as offices (Alexandersson & Kalonaityte, 2018), entrepreneurial hubs (Katila et al., 2019; Kuismin, 2022), streets (Cnossen et al., 2021), and geographical locations (Kähäri et al., 2017; Nordbäck et al., 2022). They adopt different theoretical perspectives such as socio-materiality (Dale, 2005), atmosphere (Michels & Steyaert, 2017), and Lefebvre’s spatial triad (Sivunen & Putnam, 2019). Researchers further develop creative methodological approaches such as walking methods (Beyes & Steyaert, 2021), rhythm analysis (Nash, 2020), affective ethnography (Gherardi, 2019), and geographical videography (Cartel et al., 2021). Recent studies highlight how creativity (Leclair, 2022), strategy (Holstein & Rantakari, 2022), and gender (Wasserman & Frenkel, 2015) are both constituted by and constitutive of organizational space. Studies also demonstrate the importance of place for identity work (Nordbäck et al., 2021), organizational presence (Crevani, 2019), and power relations at work (Hirst & Humphreys, 2013). Overall, extant studies invite us to examine space and place as intimately entangled with organizations and organizing.

Ongoing organizational changes, especially during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, have made the research on space and place particularly relevant. Increasing remote work, gig work, platform work, and multilocality blur work/life boundaries, connect people and things in novel ways, and extend workspaces to nearly everywhere. At the same time, organizations – from corporations to universities, government bureaucracies, and cities – make use of strategies such as sensory design and aestheticization to create ‘attractive’ and ‘engaging’ working environments and cityscapes that support the accomplishment of specific organizational objectives. The shifts in where work and organizing unfold can, thus, open up possibilities for the development of new organizational forms and ways of organizing *and* intensify already existing power differences. These shifts raise new empirical questions and call for theoretical and methodological developments that can help us investigate and better understand contemporary organizational life as inextricably entangled with space and place.

In this Workshop and Early Career Colloquium, we focus on these topics by creating an inclusive and collaborative arena for encounters, discussions, and experimentation.

Workshop and Early Career Colloquium

The workshop takes place between June 8 and 9, 2023. To this event, we invite both experienced and early-stage scholars to work and share ideas in a collaborative environment. The workshop will be organized around keynote talks, paper presentations, and panel discussions.

The Early Career Colloquium takes place on June 7, 2023. This event is a great opportunity for PhD students and early career researchers to present and discuss their work with experienced academics in a small group setting. We welcome students at any stage of their PhD.

How to apply? If you wish to participate in the Workshop and/or the Early Career Colloquium, please submit a paper abstract of **no more than 800 words by May 5, 2023, to spaceplaceaalto@gmail.com.**

In the abstract, please indicate whether you are applying to the Workshop or the Early Career Colloquium, or both.

We welcome contributions that explore topics related to organizational space and place from different theoretical and methodological perspectives and in different empirical contexts.

Authors will be notified of acceptance by **May 12, 2023**.

Researchers might examine how

- work/life is both constituted by and constituting of space/place
- changes in space/place are interconnected with changes in organizing
- leadership and management unfold in multi-locational organizations
- institutions and institutional work are embedded in space/place
- entrepreneurship is both produced by and producing space/place
- organizational and occupational identities are spatially constructed
- spatial boundaries between work, home, vacation, and leisure are created
- place/space privileges or marginalizes specific bodies
- control and resistance are spatially constructed
- technologies, and access to them, constitute organizational places/spaces
- affective atmospheres are created and how they can be designed
- architecture and organizations interconnect
- soundscapes, smellscapes, and tastescape entangle with work/life
- built environment and virtual spaces entangle
- streets, parks, neighborhoods, and wastelands both are organized and organizing
- urban planning affects the organization of work
- past, present, and future coexist in meaningful places
- aesthetics, art, and affect intertwine in organizational space
- to empirically study space as processual and performative spacing
- to explore and express the ongoing influences and impacts that non-human actors and more-than-representational forces have on the production of space/place

Organizers

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Ari Kuismin, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Alice Wickström, Aalto University School of Business, Finland

Workshop venue

Aalto University School of Business

Ekonominaukio 1

02150 Espoo, Finland

Participants are kindly requested to make their travel arrangements and hotel reservations.

Contact

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