

CRITICAL MANAGEMENT STUDIES (CMS)

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2018 CMS Professional Development Workshops: Call for Proposals

The Critical Management Studies (CMS) Division welcomes proposals for its PDW program at the Academy's 2018 meeting in Chicago, Illinois, USA. PDWs present opportunities to engage interactively, critically, creatively, innovatively, developmentally, inclusively, and provocatively with the meeting theme and/or with topics and concerns of interest to our members, to like-minded practitioners, and to members of other divisions (offering possibilities for **co-sponsorship**). They afford spaces to explore and experiment, in addition to building on formats that have worked over the years, to question the status quo and propose alternative ways of seeing and doing organization and organizational life. They also offer possibilities to partner and collaborate with local groups and organizations in developing proposals that could be delivered off-site.

We welcome proposals that are consistent with the domain of CMS and, in particular, **which engage with the 2018 meeting theme "Improving Lives"** <http://aom.org/annualmeeting/theme>. The 2018 meeting theme presents a great opportunity for critically inspired PDWs. In particular, we welcome PDW proposals that deal with the ways that contemporary capitalism has impacted the lives of individuals and communities, and how different actors can enact practices that improve the quality of life. Here are some possibilities, although this list is not exhaustive:

§ What is a 'good' life and how can we improve our lives in and outside organizations: The idea of how to lead a 'good' life is a contested terrain. Discourses of (professional) commitment and personal fulfilment are conflated into a life where the organizational life becomes the dominant mirror of our self-image as a 'good' and 'worthy' person. How do we challenge this increasingly dominant meaning of a 'good life'? What alternative understandings of the 'good life' exist and how do they challenge these meanings? How do evolving societal meanings of a 'good life' enter organizations and with which effects?

§ Combating structures of inequality – improving the lives of ourselves and others in and out work and organization: the CMS community has in the past been criticized for promoting an 'intellectualism' that allegedly prevents actual impact on the real world. While critical deconstruction helps us understand and unveil overt and hidden practices of domination and subjection, how can CMS scholarship actively engage and support initiatives that question and subvert deeply unjust structures and practices affecting millions of lives? Through which practices should we promote more just relations between the have and the have nots and a 'good life' for these latter?

§ How do (social) technologies impact our quality of life: Although the impact of technology on our work and private life has been well documented since the rise of industrial capitalism, the recent diffusion of virtual and social technologies

is changing our lives in unprecedented ways. These technologies carry a promise of better lives through 'sharing economies', 'online participatory democracies', and overall 'open expression and exchanges' among other possibilities. Yet many critical thinkers are warning about the perils of these technologies leading us to "Uber capitalism", "algorithm domination", and "online communicative chaos". How are the blurring boundaries between the life world of reproduction and the production world of paid work due to these technologies reshaping our lives? What is their potential of improving our lives?

§ The Anthropocene and the good life: Environmental movements have exposed how our ecological footprint on the planet will limit the life of future generations of humans as well as the earth as a whole. This rising awareness stands at odds with decades of increasing consumption and access to modern life's comforts as way a proxy of quality of life. How can we rethink the relation between good life and consumption? How do we redistribute consumption and 'good life' more equally across the globe? Which 'good life' is more in balance with the environment of which we are part? What practices and new social groups tackle this problem? How does 'simple life' fit with our 'organizational lives'?

§ Building novel spaces of 'good life': Which social spaces are today working towards improving lives by building alternative lives? What are their social practices, on which kinds of narratives, discourse and subjectivities do they rests? What strategies do they adopt, and which social actors and institutions do they ally with? Which issues do they grapple with? How can we as academics support them? We invite submissions that explore the organizational aspects of social movements, self-organization, workers' rights' movements, trade unions, commons,...

§ Exploring imaginaries of 'good lives' in critical teaching practices: What does it mean to teach from a critical perspective? What does such teaching look like in practice? How do we create critical and collaborative spaces where students are engaged in their own learning? How do we encourage and foster plurality in ways of seeing and doing? How can critical perspectives inform the possibilities for better lives that can be enacted through business schools inclusive of curriculum, ideologies, and practices that are espoused in classrooms and beyond? How might critical scholars engage individually and collectively with conversations on the role of business schools and business education in and across societies particularly with the transnational movement of ideas and practices?

§ Critical Scholarship and research: We invite proposals dealing with alternative ways of presenting research to connect with a wider audience, such as documentary making, opinion writing, case writing, digital storytelling, artistic and creative endeavors, etc., as well as new and emerging methods for collecting and analyzing data. Proposals can also address issues of reflexivity, voice, representation, and praxis as they relate to epistemological and methodological concerns in the field. These discussions and approaches can also inform ways to think about scholarship and social change in the spirit of critical management thought and practice.

These are only few examples. We would also welcome proposals that address other issues consistent with the aims of the Critical Management Studies division and helping to develop critically informed understanding of 'good life' and the practices that might foster it.

The CMS PDW Program also incorporates the **Doctoral and Early Career Consortia**. If you are a doctoral candidate or an early career faculty, the consortia present a welcoming environment in which to engage with more experienced colleagues in small groups and one-on-one and focus on critical research, teaching, and career development. Please encourage doctoral candidates and early career faculty you know to get involved in the consortia. While the consortia are

targeted at students affiliated with the CMS Division, we also welcome students with a primary affiliation to another Division, who see critical scholarship as important.

In the process of developing your proposal, we encourage you to read the PDW Guidelines for Submission <http://aom.org/annualmeeting/submission/pdw/guidelines/> along with A Guide for Creating and Managing a Good Professional Development Workshop <http://aom.org/uploadedFiles/Meetings/annualmeeting/program/GoodPDWGuide.pdf> In addition, in a spirit of building connections across the Academy, please indicate how your proposal may be of interest to the members of up to three other Academy divisions.

We encourage you to contact us to discuss your ideas for a proposal, but please do so well before **December 14th, 2017**, so there is still time to develop your proposal. The submission website will open **Tuesday, November 15, 2017** and the deadline for receipt of proposals is **Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 5pm U.S. ET (NY Time)**, through the Academy's submission website. Let the critical and creative thoughts flow!

The Unknown Citizen by W. H. Auden (1907-1973)

(To JS/07 M 378
This Marble Monument
Is Erected by the State)

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
One against whom there was no official complaint,
And all the reports on his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint,
For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
Except for the War till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
For his Union reports that he paid his dues,
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.
The Press are convinced that he bought a paper every day
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.
Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
And his Health-card shows he was once in hospital but left it cured.
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Instalment Plan
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
When there was peace, he was for peace: when there was war, he went.
He was married and added five children to the population,

Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his generation.
And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.
Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.