

Call for Papers

Special Issue on

Images of Organizing in Popular Culture

Editors

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For more than 20 years the field of organization studies has taken as one of its mainstays the study of culture. When culture is considered, however, it is usually done in terms of corporate culture, organizational culture or – recently – cultural diversity at work. Thus, while the culture of 9 to 5 has been discussed exhaustively, relatively little thinking has gone in to the relationship between work and the culture of 5 to 9. Meanwhile, in cultural studies organizations and businesses have also received significant consideration but mainly in the context of the ‘culture industries’ and the control of cultural production and consumption.

In this special issue, we want to extend the study of culture by critically examining images of organizing in mass popular culture. We look for accounts of how these can be understood, researched and theorized in the inter-disciplinary nexus of organization studies and cultural studies. After all, the discussion and dramatization of working relations is ubiquitous in forms of mass-mediated popular culture – whether it be television, radio, popular music, the cinema, or the printed media. It is clear that the consumers of popular culture readily find entertainment when watching, listening to and reading about work. What is less clear, however, is how these cultural forms relate back to organized work itself.

We are calling for papers that explore the relationship between the experience of work, organizations and management and the portrayal of that experience in mass popular culture. Submissions should go beyond the assumption that the production of mass culture is purely economic and/or exploitative and try to explore popular culture’s ambivalence and even hostility to organizations. We welcome contributions that employ methodological approaches such as narrative analysis, semiotics, discourse analysis, ficto-criticism, audience research, ethnography and auto-ethnography.

Submitted papers might consider, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- How popular culture does (or does not) shape the way that people make sense of their experiences with and at work
- How the knowledge embedded in popular culture narratives differs from, and can exceed, that presented in conventional academic research
- How popular culture can be a shaper of professional identity, especially for those professions that have been fictionalized in the mass media (e.g. police, lawyers, doctors)
- How popular culture is consumed in official and unofficial ways in workplaces and how this influences the culture and meaning of work

- How representations of work and organizations in popular culture can be openly critical of, or oppositional to, management
- How popular culture can be considered as, or is used as, a site of resistance to management
- How popular culture accounts of the meaning of work, organizations and management compare with those accounts in the academic literature
- How popular culture is and can be creatively used in workplace settings (e.g. re-worked song lyrics, use of cartoon images etc.)

Submission Procedure:

Papers must be sent electronically to **Submission:** Papers must be sent electronically to organization@wbs.ac.uk before 31 May 2007 as Word e-mail attachments, indicating **Images of Organizing in Popular Culture** in the subject line. Manuscripts must be prepared according to the guidelines published in every issue of Organization also available at the journal's web site:

<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journalManuscript.aspx?pid=105723&sc=1>. Papers should be between 5000 and 8000 words and will be blind reviewed following the journals standard process. For further information contact either Carl Rhodes (carl.rhodes@uts.edu), Martin Parker (mp136@leicester.ac.uk), or Barbara Czarniawska (barbara.czarniawska@gri.gu.se)