



**University of  
Zurich** <sup>UZH</sup>

**Distinguished Scholars Seminar Series  
“Practices, Artifacts and Materiality”**

**Prof. Luciana D’Adderio, University of Strathclyde**

**Course code:** DOEC0696 (3ECTS)

**Time:** May 16th to 18th 2017

**Room:** UNK-E-2, Universitätstrasse 84, 8006 Zürich

**Contact:** Katharina Dittrich (katharina.dittrich@uzh.ch)

**Course Overview**

This seminar on Practices, artifacts and materiality aims to provide participants with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the dynamics through which artifacts, technology and materiality shape organizational practices and routines. The course will be delivered as a set of specialist sessions on specific topics each involving an advanced introduction to the state of the art literature by the convener, followed by practical class-based exercises and discussion. Participants will be provided with a recommended reading list and will be asked to reflect how these contributions related to their own work/project. A provisional list of topics and articles (subject to change) can be found below.

**Provisional Schedule & Reading List**

**May 16<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**AM: INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICES AND ARTIFACTS**

D'Adderio, L. 2011. Artifacts at the centre of routines: performing the material turn in routines theory. *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 7(02): 197–230.

**Student assignment:** Please prepare examples from your own research. How do you capture/theorize practices/routines & artifacts in your work?

**PM: PRACTICES AND MATERIALITY**

D'Adderio, L. 2008. The performativity of routines: Theorising the influence of artefacts and distributed agencies on routines dynamics. *Research Policy*, 37(5): 769–789.

Orlikowski, W. J., & Scott, S. V. 2008. Sociomateriality: Challenging the Separation of Technology, Work and Organization. *Academy of Management Annals*, 2(1): 433–474.

**Student assignment:** Please read the paper assigned to you and prepare to introduce it to the rest of the class by addressing (for 5-10 minutes) the following

- *My 2 minute summary of the paper is...*
- *It helped my understanding of artifacts and materiality in these 2-3 ways...*
- *A couple of key questions it raised for me are...*

**Optional Joint Dinner:** If you are interested in joining the optional dinner, please let Katharina Dittrich know.

### **May 17<sup>th</sup> 2017**

#### **AM: PRACTICES AND AFFORDANCE**

D'Adderio, L. 2014. The Replication Dilemma Unravelling: How Organizations Enact Multiple Goals in Routine Transfer. *Organization Science*: 1325–1350.

Hutchby, 2001. Technologies, texts and affordances, *Sociology*, volume 35, number 2, pp. 441–456.

**Student assignment:** Please read the paper assigned to you and prepare to introduce it to the rest of the class

#### **PM: PRACTICES AND ASSEMBLAGES**

D'Adderio, L., Pollock, N. (2014). Performing Modularity: Competing Rules, Performative Struggles and the Effect of Organizational Theories on the Organization. *Organization Studies* 35(12) 1813–43.

Nicolini, D. forthcoming. Is small the only beautiful? Making sense of 'large phenomena' from a practice-based perspective.

**Student assignment:** Please read the paper assigned to you and prepare to introduce it to the rest of the class

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**AM: GROUP REFLECTIONS**

**Student assignment:** Please prepare reflections on how the concepts analyzed in the sessions may help you advance your work.

**PM: ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS**

**Applications**

If you are interested in participating in the seminar, please send an application with your motivation and your CV to Katharina Dittrich ([katharina.dittrich@uzh.ch](mailto:katharina.dittrich@uzh.ch)). Deadline for applications is **March 16<sup>th</sup> 2017**.

**Course Requirements for ECTS**

If you require ECTS for this seminar, we ask you to submit either (1) a synthesis of the course content or (2) a reflection on how the notions discussed in class help advance your understanding of the influence of technology, artifacts and materiality in your own research project (10-pages, 1.5 line spacing, Times New Roman). Deadline for submission of the essay is **June 16<sup>th</sup> 2017**.