

INSTITUTIONS AND CHANGE

As institutions are reshaped by crisis, chaos and the age of austerity, institutional theory needs disrupting! Institutional and management theories have been often more concerned with routines, regularities, and repetitions, rather than events, crises, and untoward irruptions.

However it has been shown that routines themselves are not stable and that their very change involves institutional change. Meanwhile, innovation instigated by the so-called institutional entrepreneurs also spurs change within organizations.

Paradoxically enough, contemporary institutions, such as financial institutions, governmental institutions and media institutions, which, as institutions, have been defined by scholars in terms of persistence, seem to be dominated by multi factorial causes of change: financial crisis, changing ideologies, and new technologies. The track explores the apparent paradox and the two sides of organizations understood as persisting institutions and changing social systems.

We seek theoretical and empirical contributions that focus on innovation and disruptions in the spheres of institutional regulation and general organizational and management taken-for-grantedness. Our purpose is to understand better why institutions and organizations change, despite their inertia and their domination over individual members through the routines and regularities. We look for papers that contribute to the advance of institutional theory by coupling persistence and change. How individual actors or coalitions of actors (traders, entrepreneurs, managers, ordinary employees) and actants (such as Eurozone crises, oil wells and hurricanes) contribute to institutional dynamics? How organizational rules and codes (imperfectly) prevent from unintended change? To what extent are managers effectively monitoring institutional change? Alternatively, to what extent do field pressures dominate their decisions? What is the role for democracy within organization as a source of initiation and explanation of change? Empirically we welcome, among other possibilities, research about non-mimetic behaviours (i.e. supposed rogue traders or institutional entrepreneurs in innovative firms, social movements such as Occupy and the *Indignados*, managerial decisions about change, transforming forms of governmentality) within specific cultural contexts of order. Conversely, we also welcome papers that support the domination of rules, norms and mimetic processes to explain change, as we are open to the richness of debates for understanding change within this track.

Theoretically, this track strives to investigate:

- The components of interpretive contexts dealing with institutional change.
- Accounts and analytics that deal with those changes that make institutions evolve.
- The role of deliberate and non-deliberate changes in social innovation.
- The limits as well as the role of institutional isomorphism in explaining institutional change
- The conflict between democracy and institutional isomorphism in the making of change.

Keywords: Events, Institutions, Culture, Ethics, Change, Crisis, Governmentality, New Technologies.

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