

Standing Conference on Organisational Symbolism

2022 Conference, Kraków, Poland (04-06.07.2022)

Call for Papers

STRANGER

Strangeness and otherness have always accompanied people. We usually feel strangeness in a dichotomy with familiarity. The tension between familiarity and strangeness is an essential element of the processes taking place in the emotional and intellectual sphere, leading to the organisation of the social world in which we function (Nowicka, 1990). This ordering is a universal and primary human need (Lévi-Strauss, 1969). All societies produce their own strangers, but each one of them produces strangers of their own kind and produce them in their own way (Bauman, 2000). At the same time, strangeness and strangers are not just negative categories – after all they cause curiosity of knowing and understanding. It is because in the intellectual sphere, familiarity is associated with a lack of reflection, while strangeness with reflection (Nowicka, 1990).

Reading the classic texts of Georg Simmel (1950), Robert Park, and Alfred Schuetz, we are fascinated by the idea of the stranger and discover that analysing and understanding the stranger as an ideal type is dealing with belonging, coherence, and separation (Fine, Hallett 2014). According to Simmel (1950, p. 402), the stranger can be both near and far at the same time – he or she is “a person who comes today and stays tomorrow”. Being a newcomer, the stranger, can share the present and future of the group, but he or she remains excluded from the past experiences of that group, i.e. from the group’s perspective, the stranger is a man without history (Schuetz, 1944). “*The stranger reveals the power of moral, social, and cultural boundaries. She illuminates social boundaries by standing outside, while stepping in*” (Fine, Hallett 2014). The existence of the stranger is of a situational nature – there is no „stranger” who is such from within him or herself, there is no “strangeness” as such, there are rather conditions which create it (Znanięcki, 1990). According to Bauman (2016), the primeval reaction to the stranger manifested itself either in the form of anthropophagy or anthropoemia, but today, in the modern multicultural social world, there is a need to work out a completely new, third way - the path of dialogue with the stranger.

Two enormous social “events” has radically changed humanity: migration crisis of 2015 and pandemic of coronavirus of 2020 increased fear, anger and the desire of isolation from unknown. Strangeness is an issue that we may work with in order to know ourselves. It is also important reference point for all researchers, educators, decision makers and activists who aim at change – it is impossible to authentically change anything without inclusion of everyone who is involved.

That is why we invite you to consider what is strangeness, alienation – in a group, organisation, and in societies. Who is the stranger when he or she becomes one of us, what happens when he or she ceases to be the stranger? This call encourages researchers who want to recognize, understand and tame the "stranger", foreign space, places and finally "foreign" organisations. Contributors may find inspiration in the following themes:

- Cultural and interactive aspects of relationships with the stranger
- Various kinds of strangeness
- The organisation in a foreign culture
- Foreign culture in the organisation
- The human in a foreign place
- Foreign emotions in the human
- Communication with the stranger
- Strangeness in education
- Alienation in the workplace
- Alienation in the public sphere
- Alienation of the creator towards their work
- Social, psychological and economic effects of alienation
- Foreign markets
- Strangers among us
- Leadership in the context of strangeness
- Technological foreignness

Open stream and workshops

SCOS 2022 will also have an open stream, allowing for the presentation of papers of more general interest to the SCOS community. In addition, we are open to suggestions for workshops or similar events in line with the proposed theme. Outlines of workshops should be the same length as a paper abstract and should give an indication of the resources needed, the number of participants, the time required, the approach to be taken and the session's objectives. Please identify "open stream" or "workshop" on your abstract, as appropriate.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts of no more than 500 words, in pdf-format, should be submitted through registration website as email attachments by 28th of February 2022. The main organisers are Ewa Bogacz-Wojtanowska, Grzegorz Mazurkiewicz, and the conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Management and Social Communication at Jagiellonian University

References

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