Call for Papers:  
Special Issue  
on  
Dance, Choreography and Organisation

Guest Editors  
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Dance and human movement are considered a promising research area to explore many body-based dimensions of interaction in organizations, including leadership. This year’s Art of Management and Organisation Conference has seen the first stream on this topic and the OA special issue will serve the purpose to document this and to develop a broader and firmer basis of this new research field in organisation studies. The special issue is open for all researchers, and not limited to those who presented at the conference.

In organisation studies, dance has been used as, for example, a metaphor and heuristic device (Chandler, 2012) to make sense of dynamic forms of human interaction in organizations, emphasizing processes of bodily movement, rhythm, themes and variations and non-verbal processes of leading and following. Dance as a performance has a potential to go beyond a metaphor to explore further the “aesthetic” side of leadership (Ropo and Sauer, 2008) and organisational life. We invite contributions that explore these co-created and aesthetic dimensions that relate to movement in organisational space and time.

In the area of methodology dance has been employed to generate data and to represent research findings in a more aesthetic way (Leavy, 2009). The body is viewed as an experiential repository for what we “know”, which may emerge through dance, and this area is under-researched as well.

Actual arts-based interventions in organisations use dance to work with aesthetic and tacit issues (Barry and Meisiek, 2010). For example processes of “leading” and “following” are performed and bodily negotiated to increase “kinaesthetic empathy” (Foster, 2011) and an understanding of the embodied, relational, and non-verbal dimensions of leadership. We also invite contributions that explore these aspects.

We invite empirical and conceptual contributions as well as thoughts from practitioners in the area. The following is a list of suggested areas, but other ideas are welcome:
Movement and embodied interaction in organizations seen through the lens of dance/choreography
Exploring leadership through dance
Choreography (as the making of dance and movement in space and time) and implications on the design and use of space in organisations
Choreographic practices as designs for organizing improvisation and development of performances
Gender and movement in organisation and leadership
Dance and choreography as a metaphor for various aspects of organizational reality (e.g. tango, swing, contemporary, classical ballet)
Using dance in artistic and bodily research – data collection, data analysis, and communication of results
Dance as an arts-based intervention in organizations
Contact improvisation
Ephemerality of dance and organisation
Implications for organizational studies from the field of neuroscience and dance

The emergence of the young area of “dance” in organization studies is a logical continuation of developments in other areas, that have a potential for organisational aesthetics research as well. The body and both choreographed and improvised forms of dance and the process of developing dance performances have attracted increasing attention of scholars in social science. Contemporary choreography thrives beyond the art world in an ever-expanding field of applications, including scholarly and political contexts (Desmond, 1997; Butterworth and Wildschut, 2009). Advances have been made by cultural studies that have pushed the boundaries of the discipline to consider dance as a culturally shaped bodily practice, which expresses and transforms socio-cultural contexts. For example, the influence of movement and bodily expression, not only onstage but in real-life, has been considered by gender studies (Young, 1990), and may be all relevant for organisational life and leadership. Dance and dancers have been used to develop and to communicate new theories within a broad range of academic fields ranging from physics to biology to social science (TED talk with John Bohannon). We are looking forward to seeing how these interdisciplinary links can be developed.

Please submit your paper online at www.organizationalaesthetics.org by 31st December 2014. Details of the journals requirements can be found at http://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/oa/
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Literature


