PROPOSED STREAM TITLE:
The Past, and Management & Organizational Studies: Challenges, Debates, and Questions

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250 WORD DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED THEME:

The last 20 years in management and organization studies (MOS) has seen repeated calls for attention to the past in Management & Organization Studies (MOS), culminating in a call for an ‘historic turn’ (Booth & Rowlinson, 2006; Kieser, 1994; Zald, 1993), the revival of the *Journal of Management History*, the establishment of *Management & Organization History*, and a proliferation of management history research. The debate has been immensely useful is bringing to the fore and problematizing the relationship between history and the past (Munslow, 2015), including the need for multiple approaches (Rowlinson, Hassard & Decker, 2013). Arguably, despite these developments some fissures are evident that threaten the critical intent of studies of the past.
First is the contention that the historic turn has failed to materialise (Mills, Suddaby, Foster & Durepos, 2016), with debates swirling around discussion of how management and organizational historians can engage more effectively with MOS on the one hand and specific business historian groups on the other hand.

Second, and more significant, is the claim that it is not clear to what extent the critical spirit of the early calls for more history have been realized. Much of the debate appears to have settled on engagement with MOS from an historical perspective, with less attention being paid to the potentially critical outcomes (Taylor, Bell & Cooke, 2009). The field seems to have become increasingly dominated by scholars laying claim to/debating the role (and methods) of history in MOS rather than what value can a focus on the past bring to critical studies. For example, feminist and postcolonial accounts of the past have been largely absent from the debate around the historic turn (Genoe, McLaren; Mills, & Weatherbee, 2015).

Third, in recent times alternative venues for discussing the role of the past have been much in evidence in conferences such as EGOS, run alongside the history stream but with arguably a more open approach to the dangers of over historicising events. In this stream we encourage papers from a range of disciplinary foci. We encourage scholars with an interest in the role of the past in the socio-politics of liberation to take part in this stream. This includes scholars who question, as well as those who see, the merit of studies of the past.

The stream welcomes but is not restricted to theoretical and/or empirical papers that deal with any of following:

- Gendering, the past and on-going discrimination
- Feminist interrogations of management and organizational history
- Existential engagements with management and organizational history
- Postcoloniality and the past: challenges and reflections on the MOS project
- Theoretical papers that explore or develop critical approaches to the historiography of business, management, and management thought
- Empirical and / or theoretical papers that explore doing history to illustrate anti-performative accounts of organization and organizing
- Empirical and / or theoretical papers that look at the potential of history to denaturalize current taken for granted organizational realities, rationalities, hegemonic organizations and forms of organizing
- Theoretical and / or empirical papers that focus on the capacity of history to fulfill an agenda of reflexivity
- Theoretical/empirical papers that problematize the notion of “historical archive” as bound within four walls (the traditional archive with trained archivists) or beyond four walls (in the Foucauldian sense) as a site for knowledge creation
- Papers that are explicit in what it means to engender history as a vehicle for critique as well as why and how it can be done
References


