THE 14TH SCANCOR PHD WORKSHOP ON INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS
AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2016, STOCKHOLM SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, STOCKHOLM

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scancor
sustaining organizational scholarship across boundaries
A warm welcome to Stockholm and the 14th SCANCOR PhD Workshop on Institutional analysis! We hope that you will have an interesting and pleasant visit here.

Stockholm is the cultural, political and economic center of Sweden and the most populous city in the Nordic countries. It is currently one of the fastest-growing regions in Europe and is known for its start-up scene. Skype, Spotify and Minecraft are a few examples of business ventures that grew out of the Stockholm entrepreneurial milieu in recent years.

Arlang Airport is located 42 kilometers from the center of Stockholm and there are high-speed trains and buses that can take you to and from the city center. To go by bus is the cheapest alternative and costs about 100 SEK for a single fare ticket. The train is very fast and reliable. If you go by taxi, please note that taxi prices differ between different taxi companies and that taxis are relatively expensive in Sweden. Ask for a fixed price if going to Stockholm by taxi. Fixed prices should range between 370 and 520 SEK. (Please note that there are no price regulations on taxis in Sweden, so it is important to ask for a fixed price in advance.)

Stockholm School of Economics is located on Sveavägen 65, in the city center, and there are a number of hotels and hostels near the school. The nearest metro station is Rådmansgatan (green line) and a bus stop named Handelshögskolan is located just outside the school’s main entrance (Bus 57). There are two entrances to the school. The front entrance on Sveavägen 65 is opened with a student pass card, while the entrance on the opposite side of the building (towards Bertil Ohlins gata/Observatorielunden) is open for all visitors during normal business hours.

The Stockholm region is home to three of Sweden’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Birka, Drottningholm Palace and The Woodland Cemetery. It is also home to a wide range of public and private museums, sometimes with free entrance. We recommend a visit at Moderna Museet, a state museum for modern and contemporary art, located on the island Skeppsholmen. In the summer time, we also recommend a short boat trip in the archipelago or a visit at Millesgården, a sculpture park and museum 20 minutes from the city center.

Stockholm is generally a safe, progressive and welcoming city; there are no “bad” neighborhoods in the city center, and the city has a reputation to be LGBT friendly. There is a wide range of restaurants near the school and almost all restaurants offer vegetarian alternatives.

Once again, a warm welcome to Stockholm!
SCHEDULE

MONDAY AUGUST 29TH
Public Morning lecture: Woody Powell, Stanford University (09.30–10.45)
Public Morning lecture: Filip Wijkström, Stockholm School of Economics (11.00–12.15)
Afternoon workshop: Woody Powell (13.45-17.00, including a break)

TUESDAY AUGUST 30TH
Public Morning lecture: Sarah Soule, Stanford University (09.30–10.45)
Public Morning lecture: Stefan Jonsson, Uppsala University (11.00–12.15)
Afternoon workshop: Sarah Soule (13.45–17.00, including a break)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31TH
Public Morning lecture: Patricia Bromley, Stanford University (09.30–10.45)
Public Morning lecture: Linda Wedlin, Uppsala University (11.00–12.15)
Afternoon workshop: Patricia Bromley (13.45–17.00, including a break)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1TH
Public Morning lecture: Gili Droli, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (09.30–10.45)
Public Morning lecture: Eero Vaara, Hanken School of Management (11.00–12.15)
Afternoon workshop: Gili Droli (13.45–17.00, including a break)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND
Public Morning lecture: Bruce Carruthers, Northwestern University (09.30–10.45)
Public Morning lecture: Peter Hedström, Institute of Analytical Sociology, Linköping (11.00–12.15)
Afternoon workshop: Bruce Carruthers (13.00–17.00, including a break)

NOTE:
All Public Morning lectures are in room Ragnar, SSE main floor (enter from the Atrium).
All afternoon workshops are in room 348 (3rd floor, accessible from either left or right to the entrance).
How the iron cage evolves: From accounting to accountability as the content of rationalization

Walter W. Powell
with Christof Brandner and Aaron Horvath
Stanford University

Abstract: Following Weber (1905), the process of rationalization is usually portrayed as a shift from value-driven, arbitrary, or intuitive decision-making to calculative means-ends relationships whose efficiency and effectiveness are to be optimized. Organizational sociologists have used this image of rationalization as a trope with very dramatic properties: “disenchanting,” dehumanizing, and in conflict with a more social orientation of organizations. We depart from this normative, ‘grand’ conception of rationalization, offering instead an empirically motivated interpretation of rationalization. We view rationalization as a social mechanism associated with multiple processes and competing contents. Using a longitudinal study of 200 randomly sampled nonprofit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, we demonstrate the fluid meanings of rationalization. Whereas the more rational nonprofits from early in the 21st century were managerial, technocratic, and inward-looking, the rational nonprofits of 2015 are financially transparent, collaborative, and outcome-oriented. Even as external technological and institutional pressures remain potent drivers of change, internal structures make nonprofits organizations more susceptible to absorb and transform ideas of rationalization. Rather than replacing past practices, new managerial ideas become intercalated with the old. In advancing a more fluid account of rationalization’s meaning, we contribute to a deeper understanding of institutional change.
Abstract: Historically, the sphere of civil society is framed in very different ways in different countries and cultures; we might even be able to speak about particular civil society regimes. The projection, travel and translation of core civil society concepts is the topic of this talk which focuses on two parallel but inter-twined transnational discursive projections: the philosophy and practice of volunteering on the one hand and the philosophy and practice of philanthropy, on the other. The development in Sweden in the period 1985–2015 will be used as a salient illustration of the more general processes at hand, but Sweden will also be discussed as a special case. A number of newly established intermediary organizations will be found at the very center of the story and their role in challenging and re-shaping an existing civil society regime will be highlighted. The recent entrance of a group of actors carrying the seeds of a different civil society discourse and regime both makes possible and encourages another set of organizational practices than the previously dominant one. The transnational travel of ideas has always been an important part in the development of societies, and actors from civil society have often been playing crucial roles in these processes. In this presentation, the conceptual travels of civil society itself will be put under scrutiny.
Tactical Innovation in Social Movements: The Effects of Peripheral and Multi-Issue Protest

Sarah A. Soule
Stanford University

(Based on paper with Dan J. Wang, Columbia University)

Abstract: Social movement researchers argue that tactical innovation occurs in response to changes external to movements, such as police repression and historical shifts in political authority, or is associated with internal movement processes, such as the characteristics of movement organizations and actors. In this study, we locate the roots of tactical innovation in the relational features of the claims made, or issues articulated, at protest events. With data on over 23,000 protest events that took place in the United States between 1960 and 1995, we develop two new operationalizations of tactical innovation and novel measures of the relationships between protest event claims. Our results show that multi-issue protest events are more likely to utilize novel recombinations of tactics while protest events with more peripheral movement claims tend to introduce new protest tactics. We subject our results to a host of robustness checks, as well as sensitivity analyses designed to assess the potential biases associated with newspaper data. We bring together work on social movement dynamics, innovation, and field theoretic approaches to theorize about the relationship between the tools and content of activism.
Norm breaking and institutional stability and change

Stefan Jonsson

Uppsala University

Abstract: Norm-breaking occupies a central position in current institutional theory – in discussions of endogenous institutional change, institutional entrepreneurship and institutional work. Yet, norm-breaking and the institutional outcomes it leads to remains undertheorized. Furthermore, empirical work often suffers from selection bias as it regularly samples on the outcome of institutional change. I draw on recent theoretical work with Jesper Edman to discuss how we can conceptualise norm-breaking and its outcomes in a more systematic manner. I provide an alternative framework for understanding the mechanisms of institutional change and stability that norm-breaking gives rise to. Using this framework I discuss outcomes of norm-breaking that are often not studied or theorised – such as whether or not changes flowing from norm-breaking are cosmetic or substantial, subsist in a pocket of adoption, or can strengthen an institution.
Rankings, Managers, and the Rise of Win-Win Discourse in U.S. Firms, 1960–2010

Patricia Bromley
Stanford University

Abstract: Corporations are increasingly pressured not only to generate financial value for shareholders, but also social value for stakeholders such as consumers, activists, and regulators. There are many reasons to expect conflict between social and economic goals, and historically there have been great tensions. So it is an unexpected turn that in recent decades firms increasingly depict the diverse goals of multiple stakeholders as synergistic. Analyzing 300 annual reports from a sample of 80 large U.S. public firms between 1960 and 2010, we find the rise of discourse emphasizing a “win-win” discourse of blended social and economic value, which includes both the social benefits of economic activities and economic gains from social responsibility. In a departure from Weber’s critique of rationalizing pressures as a dehumanizing iron cage, we argue that social rationalization and increasing managerialism serve to partly tame narratives of instrumental economic rationality. In line with this argument, we find evidence that win-win discourse is fueled by firms’ exposure to rankings, ratings and standards in social domains and by increasing numbers of officers and directors. The findings contribute to organizational theory and the sociology of value by highlighting the contexts in which firms integrate social responsibility discourse into their vocabulary of profit.
Abstract: To understand the role and impact of the current interest in rankings, ratings and other evaluative practices in global governance, I outline the starting points for a framework aimed to understand such mechanisms as ways of organizing status competition. Based on a paper co-authored with Nils Brunsson, I use examples from such organizing attempts related to the university field to discuss and illustrate elements of this framework. Particularly drawing on studies of the role of global rankings, I discuss attempts to organize status competition among universities and its impact on the global field of higher education.
Memories and Dreams of Organizations:  
On identity narratives of small players with large ambitions on the global stage

Gili S. Drori  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Abstract: The institutionalist axiom that organizations are constituted in accordance with the social environment in which they are embedded is problematized by later institutionalist analyses that reveal the complexity and multi-vocality of such social context. We examine the identity narratives that organizations construct under conditions of embeddeness in a particularly complex institutional field, namely global academia, in order to explain patterns of glocal organization. Specifically, we turn to mission statements of all 66 academic organizations in Israel, following such identity narrations between 2000-2015. We argue that Israeli universities and colleges are under pressure to achieve global excellence, satisfy Israeli needs and serve diverse social groups. Universities must also meet standards of proper governance because of increased regulation and the advice of expert consultancy, as well as wrestle with Israeli, Jewish, Zionist, Hebrew and Palestinian legacies. Coupled with the “identity paradox,” where organizations are compelled to declare their uniqueness and distinction as well as claim their relevance for particular social groups and agendas, we find patterns of both variation and similarity across the field. Following a thematic narrative analysis, which pays attention not only to content but also to the storytelling genre, we describe the many tales of organizational identity traits – namely, memories and dreams of belonging, hopes, affinities, disappointments, anxieties, embarrassments, joys and devotions. This array of complex and often conflicting aspirations is organized along the three axes of glocalization: vertical (between global and local), horizontal (between academia and other social sectors), and temporal (among the past, the present and the future). Overall, institutionalist analysis of mission statements of Israeli academic organizations, which explicate the identity script for organizations in general, allows us to consider the richness of responses of globally oriented organizations.
Abstract: This talk will focus on discursive perspectives on institutional stability and change. I will provide an overview of various discursive and narrative approaches and then focus on critical discursive analysis. In particular, I will show how it may be used to examine legitimacy struggles and strategies. The case in point is the Eurozone crisis, which I examine from a critical discourse analysis perspective. The analysis of Finnish media coverage shows how discourses of financial capitalism, humanism, nationalism and Europeanism played a central role in legitimation, delegitimation and re-legitimation. Furthermore, it elaborates on the legitimation strategies that were often used in the media texts: position-based authorizations involving institutionalized authorities and ‘voices of the common man’, knowledge-based authorizations focusing on economic expertise, rationalizations concentrating on economic arguments, moral evaluations based on unfairness used especially for delegitimation, mythopoiesis involving alternative future scenarios and cosmology used to construct inevitability. By so doing, this study adds to our understanding of the discursive and ideological underpinnings of the social, political and financial crises and contributes to research on discursive legitimation more generally.
Contracts, Clauses, Credit Ratings and Conditionalities: Distributed Governance in Global Finance

Bruce G. Carruthers
Northwestern University

Abstract: An increasingly financialized global economy reflects the importance of global capital markets, how they are governed, and by whom. The global financial crisis of 2008 further underscores that failures of governance can lead to catastrophic systemic collapse. Moving beyond conceptions of governance as involving a center-periphery structure in which the center governs the periphery, this paper catalogues the various legal, administrative and accounting devices used to structure credit flows, including instruments of both public and private regulation, in order to understand governance as a more poly-centric and distributed process. Post-crisis reform efforts have proven surprisingly unsuccessful in dislodging continued reliance on some of these devices and instruments. This suggests that they are deeply “hard wired” into the financial system, and that their role is both constitutive and regulative.
Abstract: Although there are considerable ambiguities as to what is to be meant with an “institution”, most contributors to the institutional literature agree that institutions, at least in part, are some sort of supra-individual or supra-organizational rules or norms that detail what actors normally do or ought to do in different circumstances. The institutional literature is stronger when it comes to analyzing the effects that institutions have on the behavior of individuals and organizations than it is when it comes to clearly articulating the types of mechanisms through which different institutions are brought about.

This talk consists of two interrelated parts. First I present the way in which analytical sociologists go about explaining supra-individual properties/phomena such as institutions. In brief, the explanatory approach of analytical sociology entails a focus on interacting actors and on the way in which the phenomena to be explained emerges as an intended or unintended outcome of these actions and interactions. The focus is on networks and the ways in which actions and the supra-individual phenomena to be explained mutually influence one another, and the theoretical analysis is characterized by a quest for clarity and precision. In the second part of the lecture I illustrate what these explanatory principles can imply in practice. This part of the talk seeks to explain another supra-individual property – the gender segregation of organizations – and what role labor market networks play in the segregation process. The same approach can be used for explaining the emergence of institutions, i.e., the focus is on networks, dynamic processes, and the links between micro behavior and macro outcomes.
**BACKGROUND READINGS:** (If you are not familiar with these in advance of the workshop, please read them. These are considered classic readings in institutional theory and everyone should have good knowledge of them.)


**AFTERNOON SESSION 1: Theorizing Institutional Change** – Many of the early statements in institutional analysis focused on the travel of practices and structures, championed by the mass media and proselytized by consultants. These pressures for convergence were generated by educational institutions, carried by salaried professionals across organizations, and reinforced by the power of states. More recent work has analyzed competing or rival influences, focusing on disputes between alternative visions of what is appropriate. And the question of timing – when are social structures receptive to change or novelty – is crucial.


**AFTERNOON SESSION 2: New Approaches to Studying Contestation and Variation** – How do we analyze where novel ideas come from? Can we document how competing visions play out in the creation of new organizational models? What happens when powerful individuals resist legitimate organizational reforms? This session looks at a variety of research strategies for tackling these important questions.

DESCRIPTION OF SESSIONS: During most of the 1980s and 1990s, the link between social movement theory and organizational theory was a one-way road. Social movement scholars did most of the conceptual borrowing from organizational scholars, while organizational theorists, for the most part, ignored social movement studies. However, in the last fifteen or so years, the opposing lane has been opened. The rise of economic sociology—a large theoretical domain interested in the overlap between market, political, and social processes—and a growing demand among organizational theorists (especially in institutional theory) for understanding the mechanisms that explain purposeful, strategic action (i.e. agency) created fertile grounds for social movement theory. In the first part of the 2000s, leading scholars from both fields began holding conferences and workshops and a few articles were published seeking to show the value of social movement concepts to organizational theory. This effort to link the two literatures has been well received. As more scholars began importing social movement concepts to explain organizational phenomena, organizational scholarship turned its attention (again) to issues related to power, politics, and contestation. The convergence of the two research streams has also begun to spur theoretical innovation, especially in bridging structural and cultural explanations for organizational change. These sessions will provide an overview of research at the nexus of social movement and organizational studies, with a goal of identifying novel areas for research at this nexus.

BACKGROUND READINGS: These three articles provide brief overviews of research at the nexus of organizational and social movement studies. Please have a look at these, if you are not familiar with them.


AFTERNOON SESSION 1: Organizational Studies Bringing in Social Movements


AFTERNOON SESSION 2: Social Movement Studies Drawing on Organizational Theory


Worldwide, actors of all sorts are increasingly rated, ranked, certified, evaluated and otherwise subject to rationalized forms of accountability. The growth of these phenomena is relatively recent, intensifying since the 1990s. Even in a short timeframe, evidence of the profound impact of such systems has accumulated across an array of empirical contexts such as restaurants, universities, public firms, and countries. In the first session, we will discuss rationalized evaluation and accountability systems from a macro-phenomenological perspective, seeking to understand their emergence and consequences. In the second session, we will develop a more intimate understanding of the processes involved by gaining first-hand experience in turning a complex concept into a quantitative measure and by examining issues of validity and reliability.

**AFTERNOON SESSION 1: Ratings, rankings and regulation**


**Optional:**


**AFTERNOON SESSION 2: The art and science of making measures**

- Examine the source material for firm environmental ratings and think of at least two ways you could measure “firm environmental performance” differently. Available at: https://cobweb.business.nd.edu/Portals/0/MendozaIT/Research/Shared%20Documents/KLD/Rating%20Criteria%20Definitions.pdf.
SESSION 1: Global, transnational and comparative variants of institutionalism

Describing world society theory, we apply institutionalist concepts to analyze cross-national and global dynamics. With that, we will interpret globalization with institutionalist discussions of diffusion, rationalization, translation and glocalization, and the role of (professional and organizational) carriers.


Optional:


SESSION 2: Global approach to the study of organizations and institutions

Seeing the range of contemporary theories of global organization, we consider the world society theory in relation to world system and modernization theories and, most importantly, WSt-inspired phenomenological OS in relation to IB and strategy discussions. Also, reviewing institutional comparative research, we shall outline quantitative and qualitative approaches to data and analyses and describe the empirical tools to gauge the institutional concepts and processes of global, transnational and comparative phenomena.


Optional:


**AFTERNOON SESSION 1:**

Many commentators and policymakers argue that modern market economies require predictability and transparency. So we consider two institutions that uphold these two features: contract law (which allows for predictable binding agreements) and accounting information (which allows for measurement of economic performance), and explore their sociological complexity.


**AFTERNOON SESSION 2:**

Commentators and policymakers have focused on the formal institutions that undergird market economies. But informal institutions matter as well. This session considers the challenge of studying formal and informal institutions empirically, particularly when they are intermingled.


A FEW FACTS ABOUT
THE STOCKHOLM SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

The Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) is one of the leading business schools in Northern Europe. SSE has educated talented women and men for notable positions within the business community and the public sector since 1909. Our school has earned a reputation for excellence, both in Sweden and abroad.

A SMALL SCHOOL WITH A BIG IMPACT
Our school is relatively small, with approximately 1800 students, which creates close ties between students, faculty and staff. Classes are small and faculty are highly accessible.

INTERNATIONAL TOP SCHOOL
We are an international school based in Stockholm, known as one of the world’s most beautiful cities with a bustling start-up scene. Many of our students and staff have an international background.

GRADUATES MAKE DIFFERENCE
Graduates from SSE make a difference. Among board members at the top 30 companies at the Stockholm Stock Exchange (NASDAQ OMX), a total of 27% are graduates from SSE, and 41% of the female board members are graduates from SSE.

PARTNERSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIPS
We collaborate with schools all over the world. SSE is a member of the prestigious CEMS network, and accredited by EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System), which means that all programs and research meet the highest international standard.

RANKING
For the past eight years, SSE has been ranked as the number one business school in the Nordic countries by the Financial Times.