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Organizing Institutions:

CREATING, ENACTING AND REACTING TO INSTITUTIONAL LOGICS

BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL, BANFF, CANADA, JUNE 14-16 2012

[CALL FOR PAPERS/ABSTRACTS]

*This is the third of three annual conferences to be co-organized by Copenhagen Business School, University of Alberta and Harvard University (the ABC Network) on interpretive approaches to institutional change. See* [*www.cbs.dk/ABC*](http://www.cbs.dk/ABC) *for details on the network. Core members of the ABC network: Eva Boxenbaum, Frank Dobbin, Royston Greenwood, Mary Ann Glynn, Michael Lounsbury, Renate Meyer, Jesper Strandgaard, Roy Suddaby, and Ann Westenholz.*

The institutional logics perspective is a vibrant and rapidly developing research area in organizational theory. Recent work has employed a wide variety of methods (qualitative and quantitative) to generate insights about the sources and consequences of logics in institutional fields as well as inside organizations. Over the past decade, research has moved beyond highlighting the effects of shifts in dominant logics, focusing more attention on understanding the implications of plural logics and how organizations respond to institutional complexity where conflicting and overlapping pressures stemming from multiple institutional logics create interpretive and strategic ambiguity for organizational leaders and participants. In addition, conceptualization of institutional logics has been concomitantly revised away from more static, top-down imagery and towards a view of logics that is more fluid and loosely coupled to actors and their identities and practices.

These developments have opened up a variety of new questions and approaches to longstanding issues related to embedded agency, organizational change, and the dynamics of institutional fields. Open questions include: where do new institutional logics come from? How does the existence of plural logics affect the cognition of individuals, groups and organizations? How do organizations react to institutional complexity? How do individuals and organizations interpret institutional logics and enact them? How do individuals and organizations deploy symbolic elements associated with institutional logics to better situate themselves in institutional fields? How do institutional logics relate to the dynamics of organizational practices and identities? And how do actors combine institutional logics?

To further develop the institutional logics perspective, it will be especially helpful to couple attention to the cultural dynamics of societies and institutional fields with penetrating insights into the cognition and behavior of individuals and organizational actors. We are particularly interested in receiving empirical papers that use innovative qualitative and quantitative methods to track institutional logics and their relationship to individuals and organizations, and that explicitly aim to shed light on cross-level mechanisms and effects. In addition, we encourage efforts to expand our conceptualization of institutional logics by drawing upon adjacent streams of theorizing on culture, practice, identity, justification, social worlds, inhabited institutions, symbolic interactionism, and institutional work. We plan to use this event as a foundation to pursue a special issue related to the topic.

**Keynote**

Roger Friedland has agreed to provide the keynote address.

**Deadlines**

Abstract submission (approximately 500 words): December 15, 2011

Notification of acceptance: January 31, 2012

Submission of full paper (maximum 8,000 words): May 1, 2012

**Financing**

Room and board are provided to applicants selected to present papers.

**Venue**

The conference will be held at the Banff Springs Hotel (see: <http://www.fairmont.com/banffsprings/?cm_mmc=icppc-_-BSH%20-%20Banff%20Springs%20-%20Canada%20-%20Brand-BSH%20-%20Branded%20-%20E-_-google-_-banff+springs+hotel&OVMTC=Exact&site=&creative=7759722300&OVKEY=banff%20springs%20hotel&url_id=16712152&gclid=CP7jhfeyhKkCFRG4Kgodu1DXoQ> ).

**Contact**

Please email your submissions to the 2012 conference to: Michael Lounsbury, Alberta ([ml37@ualberta.ca](mailto:ml37@ualberta.ca)) and Eva Boxenbaum, CBS ([eb.ioa@cbs.dk](mailto:eb.ioa@cbs.dk))

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any members of the conference organizing committee: Michael Lounsbury, Alberta ([ml37@ualberta.ca](mailto:ml37@ualberta.ca)); Eva Boxenbaum, CBS ([eb.ioa@cbs.dk](mailto:eb.ioa@cbs.dk)); Trish Reay, Alberta ([trish.reay@ualberta.ca](mailto:trish.reay@ualberta.ca)); Royston Greenwood, Alberta ([royston.greenwood@ualberta.ca](mailto:royston.greenwood@ualberta.ca)); Renate Meyer, CBS ([rem.ioa@cbs.dk](mailto:rem.ioa@cbs.dk)).