

SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE AS ORDINARY ACTION
AN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SCIENTISTS AT WORK

Department of Social Sciences
 Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences
 University of Fribourg

March 22nd-23rd 2007
 Pavilion of the Botanical Garden, Chemin du Musée 10, Fribourg

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 Sociological Association
 &
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Organised in cooperation with the Interaction and Social Practices Research Group
 (Department of Social Sciences-University of Fribourg)

PROGRAMME

Thursday, March 22nd 2007

Chair: Esther González Martínez (University of Fribourg, CH)

08:30-09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00-09:15	<i>Welcome address</i> Esther González Martínez (University of Fribourg, CH)
09:15-09:45	Christian Greiffenhagen (University of Manchester, UK) & Philippe Sormani (University of Lausanne, CH) <i>Scientists at Work: Introduction</i> This opening address gives a concise plaidoyer for descriptive studies of scientific practice as ordinary action. It outlines the sociological rationale for studying scientists at work.
09:45-10:45	Wendy Sherman (Kent State University, US) <i>Educating Normal Scientists: Practical Work</i> This talk focuses upon the issues, problems and solutions related to the teaching of science, drawing upon a series of case studies from laboratory science as taught on graduate level. <i>Discussant:</i> Michael Lynch (Cornell University, US)
10:45-11:00	<i>Break</i>

11:00-12:00	<p>Eric T. Meyer (Indiana University, US)</p> <p><i>Studying Scientists and their Technology: Multi-Site Research on the Ordinary Use of Digital Photography in Marine Mammal Science</i></p> <p>This paper reports on a current study examining the role of new technologies entering scientific practice by focusing on digital photography as used by marine mammal scientists.</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Martin Benninghoff (University of Lausanne, CH)</p>
12:00-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-14:30	<p>Janet Vertesi (Cornell University, US)</p> <p><i>The Practical Management of Visual Technologies on the Mars Exploration Rover Mission</i></p> <p>This talk examines in detail the everyday practices through which planetary images are conscripted in the scientific operation of a remote sensing spacecraft. The Mars Exploration Rover laboratories provide the ethnographic sites of the presented study.</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Wes Sharrock (University of Manchester, UK)</p>
14:30-15:30	<p>Timothy Koschman (Southern Illinois University, US) & Alan Zemel (Drexel University, US)</p> <p><i>Optical Pulsars and Black Arrows: Evidently-Vague Pronoun Reference in Discovery Announcements</i></p> <p>The present paper examines the distinction between "hot" discovery, that is scientific discovery on the frontiers of human knowledge and "cold" discovery, exercises, usually pedagogically motivated, designed to reproduce previously settled inquiries. Two previously documented instances of doing a discovery, one "hot" and one "cold", will be examined in detail (e.g. astrophysics).</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Martina Merz (University of Lucerne, CH)</p>
15:30-16:00	<i>Break</i>
16:00-17:30 <i>1st Keynote Speech</i>	<p>Lorenza Mondada (University of Lyon, FR)</p> <p><i>How Talk-and-Gesture-in-Interaction Shape Scientific Practices</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Alain Bovet (University of Fribourg, CH)</p>

Friday, March 23rd 2007

Chair: Martina Merz (University of Lucerne, CH)

09:00-10:00	<p>Roger S. Slack (University of Edinburgh, UK), Rob Procter (University of Manchester, UK), Mark Hartswood (University of Edinburgh, UK) & Mark Rouncefield (Lancaster University, UK)</p> <p>“Looking’s Work”</p> <p>Through an examination of the investigative work of reading mammograms this talk shows how radiologists come to find features in mammograms and how they realize accounts of these features qua competent professional reader. The aim is to explicate their “looking’s work”.</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Lorenza Mondada (University of Lyon, FR)</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>Emine Onculer (Columbia University, US)</p> <p>Representing the Brain: The Performance of Expertise at a Brain Imaging Lab</p> <p>This talk draws upon an ethnographic case study at a major psychiatric research center, based in New York City. Brain mapping will be described as a negotiated achievement, magnetic resonance imaging as the collective performance of expertise.</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Wes Sharrock (University of Manchester, UK)</p>
11:00-11:15	<p><i>Break</i></p>
11:15-12:15	<p>Morgan Jouvenet & Dominique Vinck (University of Grenoble, FR)</p> <p>Ordinary Research Practices in Nanophysics Labs and in Nanotechnology Labs. Or: Why Is Their Cooperation so Extraordinary?</p> <p>Drawing upon a long-term ethnography, this talk examines distinctive problems in the cooperation of nanophysics and nanotechnology labs. The relationship between basic and applied research is discussed on that basis.</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Martina Merz (University of Lucerne, CH)</p>
12:15-13:45	<p>Lunch</p>
13:45-14:45	<p>Morana Alac (University of California, San Diego, US)</p> <p>Robotics Laboratory in Practice: More Reflections on Embodied Methods and Technology</p> <p>Conducted in a cognitive science laboratory, this study describes the practical contingencies encountered in the design of "social robots". The dissolution of boundaries between professions and practices is at the core of the presented study.</p>

	<i>Discussant:</i> Christian Greiffenhagen (University of Manchester, UK)
14:45-15:45	David Ribes (University of Michigan, US) <i>Infrastructure at Both Ends: An Ethnography of Scale</i> Drawing from the notion of "scale" in ethnomethodology and actor-network theory, this study follows the everyday practical work of interdisciplinary geographers in defining scales of action – technical, organizational and institutional – and then bridging across these. <i>Discussant:</i> Philippe Sormani (University of Lausanne, CH)
15:45-16:15	<i>Break</i>
16:15-17:45 2nd Keynote Speech	Michael Lynch (Cornell University, US) <i>Scientific Practice & Ordinary Action: What Next?</i> <i>Chair:</i> Esther González Martínez (University of Fribourg, CH)
17:45-18:15	<i>Closing address</i> Alain Bovet (University of Fribourg, CH), Esther González Martínez (University of Fribourg, CH), Christian Greiffenhagen (University of Manchester, UK), Wes Sharrock (University of Manchester, UK) & Philippe Sormani (University of Lausanne, CH)

Scientific Committee

Alain Bovet (University of Fribourg, CH)
 Christian Greiffenhagen (University of Manchester, UK)
 Wes Sharrock (University of Manchester, UK)
 Philippe Sormani (University of Lausanne, CH)
 Jean Widmer † (University of Fribourg)

Organising Committee

Alain Bovet (University of Fribourg)
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For further information please consult: www.unifr.ch/dss-dgw/scientificpractice/