

School of Management and Marketing

Seminar Notice

TITLE : **Taking Projects Seriously: A critical analysis of the projectification of work, organizations and society**

SPEAKER : **Dr Damian Hodgson**
Manchester Business School
The University of Manchester

BIOGRAPHY

Damian Hodgson joined the school in February 2000 as Lecturer in Organisational Analysis/Human Resource Management. He previously lectured at Birmingham Business School at the University of Birmingham. He was previously employed by Leeds University Business School for four years as Junior Research Fellow, teaching a range of undergraduate courses while completing his PhD on forms of discipline and control in the workplace through mechanisms such as culture management and IT-based surveillance. In this and subsequent work, he has drawn on elements of Labour Process Theory and Critical Management Studies, focusing in particular on Foucauldian approaches to the study of the workplace. A book based on his doctoral thesis, "Discourse, Discipline and the Subject" (2000) was published by Ashgate. He has presented work at a wide variety of international conferences, including the Academy of Management, the British Academy of Management (BAM), the European Group on Organizational Symbolism (EGOS), the Critical Management Studies Conference (CMS), the Labour Process Conference (LPC) and the European Academy of Management (EURAM). He has published in a range of journals, including the Journal of Management Studies, Organisation and Gender, Work and Organisation.

DAY/DATE : **Wednesday, 3 October 2007**

TIME : 12.30-1.30p.m.

VENUE : **40A.131**

ABSTRACT

The organisation of work through projects, and the development of a range of tools, techniques and methodologies for the management of project work, is generally recognised as a late 20th Century phenomenon (see Morris, 1998; Engwall, 2003). In the past two decades, however, there has been an intensification of interest in project organising, significant in that it has occurred across both the public and private sectors and has had an impact far beyond the traditional heartlands of project work (construction, engineering, and IT). This "projectification" - of working lives and careers, of work organisations, and arguably of society more broadly - has been celebrated in many quarters as a recognition of the effectiveness of 'project rationality' and of project management technologies to deliver results in today's rapidly-changing environments. Although this claim can be contested by reference to the many failures of project management to deliver on its own terms, my aim in this paper is to encourage a broader critical engagement with project rationality and its consequences, by highlighting the dangers of project management at its most effective, ranging from work intensification, bureaucratisation and enhanced surveillance to the suppression of political and moral reflection in contemporary workplaces.

Lunch will be provided.

SMM Research Seminar Series Convenors,

Karin Garrety & Joshua Chang