



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
DIPARTIMENTO DI ECONOMIA,
MANAGEMENT E METODI QUANTITATIVI

Seminar Series

Management and Organizations

Ritual, Communitas and Institution: Theorizing Events as Moments of Organizing

GAZI ISLAM

Grenoble Ecole de Management, France

Wednesday, 22 January 2020

12:30 – 13:45

Aula Seminari (II floor)

Department of Economics, Management and Quantitative
Methods

Via Conservatorio 7, 20122 Milan

Abstract

Organized events such as rituals, conferences, summits, and festivals have become an increasingly examined topic in organizational scholarship. At the same time as scholarship has noted the fragmentation and fluidity of organizational life, attention has shifted to forms of “partial” organization, of which events form an important example. Such events can be singular or repeated, turned toward social reproduction or change, and emphasized socio-affective aspects of community or the structuration of formal institutions and rules. This heterogeneity has provided a challenge for organizational scholars, especially when aspects of change and transformation, uniqueness and history, informality and formality, alternate as moments within such events, making it difficult to theorize both events’ external diversity and internal heterogeneity. In this talk, I will outline an emergent research agenda around organizational events. I will draw upon my own theoretical and empirical work, while couching this work in the broader literature, to argue that attention to events reveals tensions occurring in organizational life more generally. On this basis, I venture some potential pathways for scholars to build upon in understanding events in terms of their psychological, relational, and social implications.

BIO



Gazi Islam is Professor of People, Organizations and Society at Grenoble Ecole de Management, and has served as faculty at Insper, Tulane University, and the University of New Orleans. He is currently editor for the Psychology and Business Ethics section at the Journal of Business Ethics. His current research interests revolve around the contemporary meanings of work, and the relations between identity, group dynamics and the production of group and organizational cultures. His work has been published in journals such as Journal of Management Studies, Organization Studies, Leadership Quarterly, Organization, Human Relations, Organizational Research Methods, The American Journal of Public Health, Journal of Business Ethics, and American Psychologist.