The 4th International Workshop
Phenomenology, Organisation and Technology

Organised by the Working Group for Phenomenology, Organisation and Technology (POT)
EM LYON (Ecole de Management de Lyon)

Lyon, France, 22-24 September 2005

Following the success of the first three International POT Workshops, held at the LSE, London, UK (2002), at the Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon, Portugal (2003), and at the University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland (2004), the POT Working Group calls for papers and participation for its 4th annual event*.

Call for Papers and Participation

As many researchers struggle to give an account of everyday phenomena in organisations, of our 'being-with-others' and of our immersion in information and communication technology which resonate with our actual experience of life, they increasingly turn to phenomenology. Phenomenology provides us with a way to get back to the actuality of the 'everyday' life of organized/organizing human beings working in and through the mediation of organization. Through phenomenology Husserl presented a fundamental critique of western rationality that is often focused on building abstract models and deriving action from these abstractions: "a pure thinking which remains exclusively within the realm of pure limit-shapes". With phenomenology, Husserl introduces a method, or perhaps an approach to thinking, that provides a renewed and sensible understanding of situations, events, things and human beings. This approach has been seminal to many authors, for example, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Schutz, Levinas, Derrida, and Henry. Through phenomenology we aim to disclose the on-going meaning of working, speaking and/or informing, organising, planning, decision making, innovating, etc. as revealed in on-going organisational life. It is with this challenge in mind that the workshop sees its task. The workshop will aim to develop and explore phenomenological analyses and accounts – either by applying the phenomenological method of investigation and its techniques, or by grounding research in previous phenomenological findings – of phenomena such as (but not limited to):

- Media, mediating and mediation
- Collaboration and cooperation
- Communicating and working
- Information and communication technology use
- Virtualisation of everyday and organisational life
- Connecting and being connected
- Ethics and mediation
- Technology and human interaction

- Technology, learning and improvisation
- Strategy, strategizing, strategic thought
- Innovation and innovating
- Decision-making, judgment and intuition
- Knowledge, knowing and action
- Organisation and organising
- Organisational language and languaging
- Technology and design

The workshop will be limited to 25-30 participants**. We intend it to be informal and interactive, for immersion and learning. We welcome contributions from those who have a substantive interest in phenomenology or who are keen to develop such an interest. The overall aim of the workshop is to develop and foster the community of phenomenological researchers in the fields of Communication Studies, Media and New Media, Organisational Studies, Social Studies of Technology, Information Systems, Sociology, CSCW, HCI, etc. If you are interested to participate send an extended abstract (1000-1500 words) or a full paper to any of the three co-chairs:

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Closing date: ASAP, but no later than 15 May 2005   **Notification of acceptance:** 15 June 2005

Final papers due: 1 September 2005

Programme Committee

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Louise Whittaker, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa
Michael Waltemathe, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
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*Some papers arising from this workshop may be considered for a special issue of the European Journal of Information Systems (2006-2007), to be guest edited by Anjana Bhattacharjee and Lucas Introna, subject to normal refereeing process.

**This event will also include a guest session of the Special Interest Group for "Interpretive" Approaches and Methods (SIG IAM), featuring a paired discussion on the topic of "reflexivity". The guest session may be open to an additional number of non-workshop participants: for further details and/or to register your interest, please contact Anjana.Bhattacharjee@brunel.ac.uk