

Academic workshop

“Future Directions of Socio-Technical Systems (SoTS)”

Event Address: Aalborg Universitet at Sydhavnen, A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, 2450 København SV.

Tuesday 23/4, 12.00 – 17.00

The scope of the seminar is to create a common understanding of current challenges for the sociotechnical systems. The visible result will be a digitalized mind map, on which we can further elaborate afterwards.

The SoTS was developed 50-60 years ago, when industrial work organization quite recently had become the dominant form of organization, and where Taylorism had just been introduced in a large scale. Very much has happened since: industrial production has changed radically, and the service sector has grown dramatically. IT has changed the workplace, and new forms of management have been developed. Competition and ownership has also changed thoroughly. In the public sector, New Public Management developed. But the objective of the SoTS, to simultaneously develop jobs that are adapted to human conditions and allow human development and create productive organisations, is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago.

The SoTS is related to micro phenomena – the practical design of working life. But SoTS has also since its humble beginnings been related to broader social issues. Since SoTS was created in the 1960s and 1970s, socio technique has been seen as a way to promote democracy, inclusion and productivity. Society - and SoTS - has changed much since. Democracy is peeled off the agenda on working life. Sustainability has been put on the agenda for instance in EU's strategies for economic and social development. CSR is another recent phenomenon, which is also related to SoTS. Inclusion and retention in the aging society are issues related to the SoTS. So is ‘social innovation’ or workplace innovation. And then we have the global economic challenge with high global competition. Also here the SoTS can be part of the answer.



Program

The following 11 academics from Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium are all invited to prepare a short contribution, involving their own their research in working life:

1. (Chair) Prof. Robert Karasek, U. Mass, US./Copen.U., Dk.
2. (Chair) Prof. Helge Hvid, Roskilde U., DK.
3. Prof. Geert Van Hootehem, U. of Leuven, Belg.
4. Prof. Maureen Dollard. U. South Australia, Australia.
5. Prof. Tuija Muhonen, Malmö U., Swed.
6. Prof. Per Sederblad, Malmö U., Swed.
7. Prof. Ole Sørensen, Aalborg-CPH U., Dk.
8. Prof. Per Hasle, Aalborg-CPH U., Dk.
9. Prof. Peter H. Rasmussen, Roskilde U., Dk.
10. Professor, Pierre van Amelsvoort, NL
11. Discussant: Director: Mieke van Gramberen, Flanders Synergy

12.00-13.30

Presentation and lunch:

“What is going on, related to STS” in Worlds-wide Locations – today” – with discussion:

- Flanders
- Øresund Synergy
- Aalborg University
- Australia
- Malmö Högskola
- Roskilde University

13.30- 16.00

“Current challenges for the STS: Changes in the world of work, and Changes in the social responsibility of SoTS”

The invited scholars will each give a 10 minute statement (max).

16:00 – 17:00

A common mind map of the challenges for the SoTS will be constructed during the session above and elaborated in smaller groups.

And: Discussion and further Steps.

Register for the workshop on
www.oresundsynergy.com