

Call for Papers: Biography and Management History

22nd Conference on the History of Management and Organizations
(22nd JHMO)

22, 23 and 24 March 2017 at CNAM, Paris

Organized by the AHMO (Association for the History of Management and Organizations), the CNAM (National Conservatory of Arts and Trades), the LIRSA (Interdisciplinary Research laboratory for Action Sciences, EA 4603), the HT2S laboratory (Technosciences in Society History, EA 3716).

“Don’t tell my mother I’m a biographer, she thinks I’m a historian”
François Dosse, *Le pari biographique*, 2005, p. 17

Biographies, although criticized by the Annales School, have come back into favour with historians. One only has to name Jacques Le Goff and his Saint Louis or read *Le pari biographique* by François Dosse (2005) to know that. This does not, however, mean a return to hagiographical accounts and heroic portraits that tend to mask the truth about an era rather than reveal it. For the 22nd History of Management and Organizations Conference, we are looking for papers that help to understand better the behaviour of managers and the myriad of theories on management, but that also have an interest for the reader; in this respect descriptions of psychological profiles or anecdotes can be a highly useful device.

The wide scope offered by the subject covers both business players and theoreticians on the management of organizations, which are indeed sometimes one and the same in the case of Henri Fayol, Frederick Winslow Taylor, Chester Barnard or Alfred Sloan, to name just some of these illustrious writers. It can also be worthwhile to take a look at some less known authors, such as Emile Rimaillho or Charles Bedaux. While the examples given above are all 20th century figures, there is no limit, in time, geographical zone or gender, to the subjects considered (one only has to think of the biography of Mary T. Washington, the first female CPA). This call for papers is not restricted to pure management, it being influenced both by the social and the exact sciences.

The only rule we have set is that contributions must be original and respect the rules of historiography. What we do not want is a simple biographical account. Social background, education and cultural and national factors can be referred to, of course, avoiding a deterministic stance, while showing what we can learn from them and what impact the author, entrepreneur or other individual has had on management.

It would be interesting to consider the aims of the biographer: present the subject as an example to be followed for educational purposes, or as a heroic figure or the figurehead of an organization, symbolizing its identity and motivating its members. In contrast, one could focus on a particular individual in order to help to understand the role of the multitude of anonymous players forming the fabric of a business, or otherwise take a microhistorian's look at "the normal exception" whose deviation from the norm provides us with more information about it.

We would also welcome works presenting variants from conventional biographies. These could be collective portraits according to prosopographical research, or studies of networks from a sociological perspective, such as those of Michel Callon and Bruno Latour. We cannot ignore the success stories of the likes of Mark Zuckerberg or Steve Jobs, which could also be the subject of a paper.

Conference Committee

Marco Bertilorenzi, Cnam, HT2S
Laurence Morgana, Cnam, LIRSA
Jean-Claude Ruano-Borbalan, Cnam, HT2S
Henri Zimnovitch, Cnam, LIRSA

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Eric Pezet, Université Paris X – Nanterre
Nicolas Praquin, Université Paris-Sud
Jean-Luc Rossignol, Université de Franche-Comté
Béatrice Touchelay, Université de Lille 3

Important note

As in previous years, proposals for papers that are outside the chosen theme but which examine management issues from a historic point of view, are also welcome. We are particularly looking for new and original inputs.

Methodology workshop for PhD students

The History Conference will begin with a workshop for PhD students on 22 March, providing tutoring on management and organizational history theses and a methodology workshop.

Doctoral students wishing to present their research during this workshop should present a document of a maximum of ten pages specifying the research field (theme, research questions), the theoretical framework or the theoretical articulation of the thesis, methodological approach, initial results (if applicable), their main primary sources and bibliographic references.

Doctoral students at early stages of their thesis are also encouraged to take part.

Key dates

Deadline for submission of papers and doctoral workshop application: **2 December 2016**

Your proposals must be sent in French or in English, with an abstract in French and English, to the following address:

jhmo2017@gmail.com

Results of the selection commission: **20 January 2017**

Final version of texts: **17 February 2017**

Papers may be given in French or in English; **simultaneous translations** from French to English will be provided during plenary sessions.

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