

# 25<sup>th</sup> Colloquium of the History of Management and Organizations

March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 / Lyon



**Organised by the French Association for History of Management and Organizations (AHMO) and the Institute for Education and Research in Healthcare and Social Service Organizations (IFROSS, University Jean Moulin Lyon 3), with the collaboration of the Centre for Historical Research Rhône-Alpes (LARHRA, UMR 5190) and Triangle (UMR 5206).**

The Colloquium in History of Management and Organizations (JHMO) is the annual, international and interdisciplinary colloquium organised by the French Association for History of Management and Organizations (AHMO). It gathers scholars in history, management studies, sociology, economics and other related fields, who share the historical approach of AHMO research topics: organisations, managerial thought and practice, and the field of management studies.

As in previous years, the 25<sup>th</sup> JHMO is divided in two sessions. The general session is open to any papers dealing with managerial matters using historical methods. The thematic session focuses on “paths and networks”.

## General Session

The general session is open to any proposal dealing with AHMO topics (history of the field of management studies and its disciplines, history of organisations, history of managerial thought and practice), with a special interest in accounting history, which has been the foundation of the AHMO community.

Proposals should use historical methods and privilege empirical data, in every sense: archives, textual corpus, interviews, etc. The novelty and originality of the research results will be appreciated.

## Thematic Session: paths and networks

The thematic session concerns all topics, issues or methods which utilise the concepts of path or network in the history of organisations and management studies.

From a historical perspective, the notions of path and network are deeply linked. Every path is a movement inscribed in time and (geographical, social, economic ...) space, which might be described as a network (between locations, people, interests ...). Reciprocally, every network is the representation of the relations between people or objects at a given time, and those relations are the consequences of a temporal evolution. The concepts of path and network are powerful entry points for the history of organisations and management studies. The objective of the thematic session is to bring examples of the use of the concepts of path and

network together. Proposals should move beyond the metaphorical use of such concepts, either by focusing on concrete paths or networks, or by relying on methods based on paths and networks.

**a) Taken as concrete historic objects, paths and networks** concern every historical period and a variety of topics, such as:

- banking and financial networks;
- trade networks (see the study of French merchant networks in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Pierre Gervais, Yannick Lemarchand and Cheryl S. McWatters<sup>1</sup>);
- colonial networks;
- professional networks and corps;
- consumers networks; and
- family, clan, and diaspora networks.

This list is non-exhaustive and we welcome proposals on any topic related to paths and networks.

**b) Paths and networks are also central concepts in quantitative methods** which developed in disciplines such as sociology, demography or geography since the 1970s. Despite the adoption by history, and notably economic history, of long-run statistical series throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the discipline has remained relatively closed to such methods. Nonetheless, in 2008 Claire Lemerrier and Claire Zalc underscored the interest of quantitative approaches in their “taking particularly into account the phenomenon of networks and paths that has been put on the agenda of historical research since the 1990s”<sup>2</sup>. Such methods are indeed powerful tools for description and interpretation, but also for hypothesis testing (such as deconstructing ordinary representations relayed in archives or discourses), or even as a heuristic for unveiling “definition problems easier not to mention if one sticks to qualitative methods”<sup>3</sup>.

The thematic session is open to any proposal using such quantitative methods for describing and analysing paths and networks in any historical period, such as:

- Career paths: the concept of career is of prime importance in the history of organisations and management. Qualitative methods such as biography focus on such a concept, but quantitative methods have also developed to analyse professional trajectories. Primarily used in ancient and medieval history, prosopography has developed particularly in contemporary history for studying the élites<sup>4</sup> or in sociohistorical approaches relying on the theories of Pierre Bourdieu<sup>5</sup>, for example for studying scholars<sup>6</sup>. Other methods such as event history analysis<sup>7</sup> are used to study careers in sociology<sup>8</sup>. How might such tools be applied to the history of organisations and management?
- History of organisations: the concepts of path and network can be applied equally at the organisational level<sup>9</sup>, especially with social network analysis<sup>10</sup>. For example, the study of interlocking directorates (which “occurs when a person affiliated with one organization sits on the board of directors of another organizations”) is now a classic approach for analysing organisations, particularly

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<sup>1</sup> Pierre Gervais, “Crédit et filières marchandes au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle”, *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales* 67, no. 4 (2012): 1011-1048 ; Cheryl S. McWatters and Yannick Lemarchand, “Accounting as Story Telling: Merchant Activities and Commercial Relations in Eighteenth Century France”, *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal* 23, no. 1 (2013): 49-83.

<sup>2</sup> Claire Lemerrier and Claire Zalc, *Méthodes Quantitatives Pour L'historien* (La Découverte, 2008), 17.

<sup>3</sup> Claire Lemerrier, “Analyse de Réseaux et Histoire,” *Revue d'histoire Moderne et Contemporaine* 52, no. 2 (2005): 88–112.

<sup>4</sup> Hervé Joly, “La Prosopographie Des élites Françaises Contemporaines : Essai de Bilan Méthodologique,” in *Cultures et élites Locales En France, 1947-1989*, ed. Agnès Callu (CNRS Éditions, 2018), 23–30.

<sup>5</sup> Donald Broady, “French Prosopography: Definition and Suggested Readings,” *Poetics* 30, nos. 5-6 (2002): 381–85.

<sup>6</sup> Christophe Charle, *La République Des Universitaires* (Éd. du Seuil, 1994).

<sup>7</sup> Andrew Abbott, “Sequence Analysis: New Methods for Old Ideas,” *Annual Review of Sociology* 21 (1995): 93–113.

<sup>8</sup> Mary Blair-Loy, “Career Patterns of Executive Women in Finance: An Optimal Matching Analysis,” *American Journal of Sociology* 104, no. 5 (1999): 1346–97.

<sup>9</sup> Lemerrier, “Analyse de Réseaux et Histoire.”

<sup>10</sup> Emmanuel Lazega, “Analyse de Réseaux et Sociologie Des Organisations,” *Revue Française de Sociologie* 35, no. 2 (1994): 293–320.

the largest US firms<sup>11</sup>. It mainly developed in the field of sociology, economics and management studies, occasionally in a longitudinal perspective based on cross-section analysis, as for example on the British industry in the 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>12</sup>. From a historical perspective, this method provides first-rate material for understanding the forms of capitalism and their evolution<sup>13</sup>. What insights could such methods offer to the history of organisations and management, for example on forms of governance or the evolution of strategy?

- Diffusion of knowledge: social network analysis has largely spread in social sciences and humanities, notably in history<sup>14</sup>. It provides quantitative tools for studying the dissemination of knowledge in scientific fields or communities (see for example the research programme proposed by Catherine Herfeld on history of economics<sup>15</sup>). For instance, the analysis of co-authorship or citations network has considerably developed since the seminal works of Eugene Garfield<sup>16</sup> who is one of the creators of the bibliographic database Web of Science and the rise of bibliometric analysis of citation impact. Possibilities offered by such methods remain largely unexplored in the history of the various scientific fields dealing with organisations and managerial practices. How could the concepts of path and network, or the methods based on those concepts, be used to study the diffusion of knowledge within organisations?

This list of topics is non-exhaustive. Proposals adopting other methods based on the concepts of path and network are welcome, for instance, more qualitative approaches relying on actor-network theory<sup>17</sup>.

## The Joseph Colleye Prize

The first Joseph Colleye Prize in accounting history, in the amount of €1,500, will be awarded during the 25<sup>th</sup> Colloquium in the History of Management and Organizations. The call for applications for the prize is available at [ahmo.hypotheses.org/2808](http://ahmo.hypotheses.org/2808).

## Organising Committee

Natacha Coquery (LARHRA, Université Lyon 2)

Benoit Cret (IFROSS, Université Lyon 3)

Anne Dalmasso (LARHRA, Université Grenoble Alpes)

Nicolas Guilhot (IFROSS, Université Lyon 3)

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Trevor Boyns (Cardiff Business School, UK)

Salvador Carmona (IE Business School, Madrid - Spain)

Hélène Gorge (Université de Lille)

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<sup>11</sup> Mark S Mizruchi, "What Do Interlocks Do? An Analysis, Critique, and Assessment of Research on Interlocking Directorates," *Annual Review of Sociology* 22 (1996): 271–98.

<sup>12</sup> John Scott and Catherine Griff, *Directors of Industry. The British Corporate Network 1904-1976* (Cambridge / Oxford: Polity Press, 1984).

<sup>13</sup> Thomas David and Gerarda Westerhuis, eds., *The Power of Corporate Networks: A Comparative and Historical Perspective* (London: Routledge, 2014).

<sup>14</sup> Bonnie H. Erickson, "Social Networks and History: A Review Essay," *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History* 30, no. 3 (1997): 149–57; Lemercier and Zalc, *Méthodes Quantitatives Pour L'historien*; Laurent Beauvitte, "Le Réseau : Usages d'une Notion Polysémique En Sciences Humaines et Sociales," ed. Rosemonde Letricot et al. (Presses Universitaires de Louvain, 2016), 9–24.

<sup>15</sup> Catherine Herfeld and Malte Doehne, "Five Reasons for the Use of Network Analysis in the History of Economics," *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 2018.

<sup>16</sup> Eugene Garfield, Irving H Sher, and Richard J Torpie, "The Use of Citation Data in Writing the History of Science" (Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information, 1964).

<sup>17</sup> Michel Callon, "Éléments Pour Une Sociologie de La Traduction : La Domestication Des Coquilles Saint-Jacques et Des Marins-Pêcheurs Dans La Baie de Saint-Brieuc," *L'Année Sociologique*, no. 36 (1986): 169–208.

Eminegul Karababa (Middle East Technical University, Ankara - Turkey)  
Pierre Labardin (Université Paris-Dauphine)  
Ève Lamendour (Université de La Rochelle)  
Nadia Matringe (London School of Economics, UK)  
Cheryl McWatters (University of Ottawa, Canada)  
Valérie Revest (Université Lumière Lyon 2)  
Paulette Robic (Université de Nantes)  
Nadège Sougy (Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland)  
Lucy Taksa (Macquarie University, Sydney - Australia)  
Béatrice Touchelay (Université Lille)  
Steve Sdatny (The University of Vermont, Burlington - USA)

## Submission instructions

Proposals should be 1 to 2 pages (5,000 signs, references excluded) and include explicitly:

- Research question;
- Sources (archives, textual corpus, interviews, field of observation...);
- Methods; and
- Main results if available.

Proposals may be written in French or English. A summary in both French and English should be provided. Proposals are to be submitted to [jhmo2020@univ-lyon3.fr](mailto:jhmo2020@univ-lyon3.fr) or on the website of the conference: [jhmo2020.sciencesconf.org](http://jhmo2020.sciencesconf.org)

Important deadlines:

- Submission of proposals: ~~31 October 2019~~ **12 November 2019**
- Notification of acceptance: ~~18 November 2019~~ **2 December 2019**
- Final version of papers (20 to 25 pages, 30 to 40,000 signs, references excluded): **2 March 2020**

Proposals will follow a double-blind review process.

## Presentation format

Presentations will be organised into sessions of 3 to 4 presentations depending on the topic. The oral presentation should be 20 minutes in length, and will be followed by a 20-minute discussion period. Participants should send a final version of their paper before 2 March 2020 in order to distribute papers to the other participants of their session.

Oral presentations may be in French or English.

## Date and location

The 25<sup>th</sup> Colloquium in History of Management and Organizations will be held on **Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, in Lyon.**

The morning of Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> will be dedicated to the doctoral workshop. The colloquium will begin on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 14h00 and end on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 16h00.

## Contact

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