

## SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS

### Re-visiting the Historic Turn 10 years later: Current Debates in Management and Organizational History



#### Guest Editors:

- Albert J. Mills, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University, [albert.mills@smu.ca](mailto:albert.mills@smu.ca)
- Roy Suddaby, University of Alberta, [rsuddaby@ualberta.ca](mailto:rsuddaby@ualberta.ca)
- William M. Foster, University of Alberta, [wfoster@ualberta.ca](mailto:wfoster@ualberta.ca)
- Gabrielle Durepos, Mount St. Vincent University.

#### Special Issue Description:

The establishment of the Management & Organizational History (M&OH) journal emerged out of earlier calls for an 'historic turn' in Management and Organization Studies (M&OS) (see Clark & Rowlinson, 2004; Kieser, 1994; Zald, 1993) and a (somewhat mooted) critique of existing approaches to the study of history in the field. While M&OS was seen as universalist, presentist and scientific, attempts at historical analysis were seen as generally "myopic fact collecting without a method" (Kieser, 1994, p.609). The inaugural editorial went on to call for greater exploration of the different methodological (and philosophical) approaches to the study of history. Central to the first issue of M&OH was a renewed call for an 'historic turn.'

Ten years later, there is some question if the 'historic turn' has been fully realized. The broad consensus around the need for an historical turn has arguably served to paper over some potentially significant differences and debates. As such, we feel that the time is ripe to re-visit the call for a historic turn in M&OS and to bring together a number of new and emerging debates in one Special Issue of Management and Organizational History.

To be clear, our motivation for this special issue is that these debates and differences are being played out elsewhere (e.g., management and business history publications, the review process, conferences). A few salient examples of these debates are the recent discussions by Rowlinson and Hassard (2013) of the institutional history work by Suddaby, Foster and Mills, (2014), Decker's (2013) critique of archival research, and debates around the use of actor-network theory and historical methods (Bruce & Nyland, 2011; Durepos & Mills, 2012; Shenhav & Weitz, 2000). Our goal is to encourage a forum for far-ranging discussions of the various ontological, epistemological and methodological challenges that face scholars in the field. Ideally this special issue of M&OH will produce a robust, theoretically informed and diffused debate that can move the field closer to a mature paradigmatic stage.

We encourage papers that include but are not limited to any of the following:

- Historical neo-institutionalism or neo-institutionalist history? - Further debates.
- History as postcolonial discourse?
- Wither realism in management and organizational history?
- What is the past – as – history? Outlining consequences for the historic turn in M&OS.
- After 'the past-as-history' (Munslow, 2010): can we sustain the argument for an historic turn?
- The role of process and practice in management and organizational history.
- The uses and abuses of history: Rhetorical history (Suddaby, Foster, Quinn-Trank, 2010) and managerial skill.
- Recent debates in History: Lessons for Management and Organizational History
- ANTi-History or antihistory: debates around actor-network theory and historiography.
- Modernist, Postmodernist, or Amodernist history?
- The marriage of CMS with business/organizational history: happy bedfellows?
- Postmodern proclamations of the end of history: consequences for the budding historic turn in M&OS (Foucault, 1979; Jenkins, 2009)
- Managing the archive and its traces: a disinterested or ideologically informed process?

## **Selected References**

- Bruce, K., & Nyland, C. (2011). Elton Mayo and the Deification of Human Relations. *Organization Studies*, 32(3), 383-405. doi: 10.1177/0170840610397478
- Clark, P., & Rowlinson, M. (2004). The Treatment of History in Organization Studies: Towards an 'Historic Turn'? *Business History*, 46, 331-352.
- Decker, S. (2013). The silence of the archives: business history, post-colonialism and archival ethnography. *Management & Organizational History*, 8(2), 155-173.
- Durepos, G., & Mills, A. J. (2012). Actor Network Theory, ANTi-History, and Critical Organizational Historiography. *Organization*, 19(6), 703-721.
- Foucault, M. (1979). *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Jenkins, K. (2009). *At the limits of history : essays on theory and practice*. London ; New York: Routledge.
- Kieser, A. (1994). Crossroads - Why Organization Theory Needs Historical Analyses - and How This Should Be Performed. *Organization Science*, 5(4), 608-620.
- Munslow, A. (2010). *The Future of History*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Rowlinson, M., & Hassard, J. (2013). Historical neo-institutionalism or neo-institutionalist history? *Management & Organizational History*, 8(2), 111-126. doi: 10.1080/17449359.2013.780518
- Shenhav, Y., & Weitz, E. (2000). The Roots of Uncertainty in Organization Theory: A Historical Constructivist Analysis. *Organization*, 7(3), 373-401.
- Suddaby, R., Foster, W., & Mills, A. J. (2014). Historical Institutionalism. In M. Bucheli & D. Wadhvani (Eds.), *Organizations in Time* (pp. 100-123). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Zald, M. (1993). Organization studies as a scientific and humanistic enterprise: Towards a reconceptualization of the foundations of the field. *Organization Science*, 4, 513-528.

## **Submission Process:**

The submission process will follow the standard submission procedure of M&OH and should be made online at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/moh>. Each submission will be initially reviewed by the guest editors to determine its suitability for the special issue. Those manuscripts that pass the original screening will be sent out for double-blind peer review following the journal's standard process. All authors should ensure that their submissions conform to the journal's guidelines, which can be found at: [http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rmor20&page=instructions#U2-Oqi\\_6Tp0](http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rmor20&page=instructions#U2-Oqi_6Tp0). For further details or to discuss possible ideas, prospective authors are encouraged to contact the guest editors.

## **Target Dates:**

- Submission system opens: 28 February 2015
- Submission deadline: 31 March 2015
- Approximate date of publication: Mid 2016

## **About the Editors:**

*Albert J. Mills* is a Professor of Management and Director of the PhD (Management) program at the Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University, Canada. He is the author of over 300 books, chapters, articles, cases, conference proceedings and presentations. His books include *The Routledge Companion to Management & Organizational History* (2015); *Absent Aviators: Gender Issues in Aviation* (2014); *ANTI-History: Theorizing the Past, History, and Historiography in Management and Organizational Studies* (2012); *Business Research Methods* (2011); and *Sex, Strategy, and the Stratosphere: the Gendering of Airline Cultures*. Albert is the Co-Chair of the International Board for Critical Management Studies and the previous co-chair of the Critical Management Studies Division of the Academy of Management. He is an Associate Editor of four journals, including *Gender, Work & Organization*; *Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management* and *Organization*. He is also on the editorial board of several other journals including *Management & Organizational History*.

*Roy Suddaby* is the Eldon Foote Professor of Law and Society at the Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta. His research focuses on processes of organizational change with a specific focus on the changing role of the corporation in society. He has published in leading management journals and has won best paper awards from the *Administrative Sciences Quarterly* and the *Academy of Management Review*. He is the outgoing editor of the *Academy of Management Review*.

*William (Bill) M. Foster* (Ph.D. University of Alberta) is an Associate Professor of Management at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta. His research interests include rhetorical history, social memory studies and business ethics. He has published in *Advances in Strategic Management*, *Journal of Management Inquiry* and *Journal of Business Ethics*. He is an Editorial Board member for the *Academy of Management* and an Associate Editor at the *Journal of*

*Management Inquiry* and an incoming Associate Editor at the *Academy of Management Learning & Education*.

*Gabrielle Durepos* is an Assistant Professor at Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Her co-authored book: *ANTI-History: Theorizing the Past, History, and Historiography in Management and Organization Studies*, seeks to address the call for an historic turn. She is a co-editor of both the SAGE *Encyclopedia of Case Study Research* as well as the *SAGE Major Work on Case Study Methods in Business Research*. Her recent publications appear in *Management & Organizational History*, *Journal of Management History*, *Critical Perspectives of International Business*, and *Organization*. She is the president of the Atlantic Schools of Business Conference as well as the newsletter editor of the critical management studies division of the Academy of management. She is currently engaged in an organizational history of a provincial museum complex in Nova Scotia, Canada.