ORGANIZATIONAL SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Sytze Kingma

Description
Space and material culture have been notoriously neglected in organizational theory and organizational cultural analysis. However, there currently is a renewed interest in organizational space, in which the material dimension of organizations is advanced as a crucial pre-condition to any form of human organization. In this seminar organizational space is broadly defined as referring to architecture, interior design, material artifacts, the human body, and all kinds of organizational tools and technologies. A central point of concern, are the spatial conditions and consequences of the new digital technologies characteristic of the information age and the network society. The digital information and communication technologies (ICT's), question the time-spatial construction of organizations, and lead to new organizational concepts like the virtual organization. However, the relationship between the “virtual” and “real” appears to be highly complex. Paradoxically, the increasing virtualization of organizations at the same time leads to a renewed interest in the material context of organizations, as can be demonstrated in the case of the persistence and use of an ancient, and apparently simple, technology like “paper”. Possible thesis themes include architecture, virtual worlds, the “paperless office”, work and technology, spatial design and management, identity and boundary construction, panoptic spaces and complex organizational spaces like urban space and omnitopia.

Currently (0909) there is room for an MA thesis project dealing with “Flexible and paperless office spaces”