

23.1.2020 14:00-16:00. Torkild Thanem (Stockholm Business School): *Analytical Buggery: Embodied Reason and Engagement in Management & Organization Studies*

Abstract

In this paper, I will draw on Gilles Deleuze's (1995) historical-philosophical method of buggery to promote more embodied ways of engaging with empirical material in the study of management and organization. Whereas dominant research practice tends to silently assume that analysis is about grasping the simple if detailed order of things through detached logical reasoning, the organizational scholar committed to analytical buggery seeks to imbue their analysis with as much flesh and blood as possible from the lives they study, without denying that any effort to create theoretical insights into organizational life is necessarily shaped and informed by the researcher's own embodied life.

As the analytical bugger plunges into an untidy web of extant concepts, empirical records and corporeal experiences, they may create monstrously immaculate concepts that express the scars and pains of organizational life as well as their apathies and indifferences, joys and excitements.

I begin by tracing the disembodied deceptions of organizational analysis back through key figures in the history of philosophy and science. By probing into some of the scars and pores that incorporate this history, I then outline what I envision as the main habits, sentiments and relationships of analytical buggery.

By the way, the second time I tried to promote analytical buggery at an academic conference, someone in the audience informed me what a heteronormative concept this was. I am entirely to blame. I had made no effort to problematize how Deleuze had appropriated buggery for his own historical-philosophical ends. Nor had I presented myself as anything but a similarly bent straight white male. In other words, I had failed to bugger Deleuze, and myself.