**5.4.2019, 13:30-15:00, (R038/V001),**

**Daniel Beunza (Cass Business School)**

**Resilience, meaning, and organizational response to disaster**

**Abstract**

Over the past decade there has been increasing interest in “extreme context” research. Scholars in sensemaking have examined the structures and technologies that increase organizational responsiveness, while other researchers have focused on how employees make meaning during disaster. Nevertheless, the extreme context literature has barely examined the interplay between technology and meaning-making, overlooking the risk that a structurally resilient organization might ultimately lead to meaningless work. My study addresses this gap with an ethnographic study of the complex and unpredictable recovery of an investment bank located next to the World Trade Center following the terrorist attack of 9/11. My analysis suggests that organizations can preserve their integrity by turning to manual, analogue, and labor-intensive technologies, as these can provide partial functionality, as well as solidarity. The concept of low-tech recovery contributes to the literature on technology in organizations by underscoring the sociomaterial nature of organizational responsiveness.

**Biographies**

Daniel Beunza is Associate Professor of Management at Cass Business School. His research explores the ways in which social relations and technology shape financial value. His award-winning study of a derivatives trading room on a Wall Street bank traces the roots of extraordinary returns to the use of space and internal organization. Beunza obtained his PhD from New York University, and has previously taught at Columbia University and the London School of Economics. His research has been published in Organization Science, Organization Studies and Economy and Society. Beunza is a leading contributor to the social studies of finance literature, and edits the blog Socializing Finance. He has also served as Chair of the academic network of the Principles of Responsible Investment, and collaborated with the UK Banking Standards Board. Beunza’s forthcoming book, “Taking the Floor: Models, Morals and Management in a Wall Street Trading Room” (Princeton University Press) considers the problem of morality in derivatives trading in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.