

25.10.2019 14:00-15:30 Q101 (Väre), Markus Hällgren (Umeå University): A Matter of Life and Death: How Extreme contexts research matters for management and organizations studies

Abstract: Organization scholarship has seen an escalation of interest in research into extremes. Comprising several interconnected domains, this growing body of research is decidedly fragmented. This fragmentation risks limiting its potential for advancing management and organization studies. Drawing on 138 articles published in top-tier journals between 1980 and 2015, the purpose of this review is to resolve some of this fragmentation by sharpening definitions and by developing a context-specific typology to help differentiate between contributions from research into risky contexts, emergency contexts, and disrupted contexts. Doing so allows us to let the various literatures speak to each other and to outline ways to enhance the cumulative potential of extreme context research. Additionally I will give some brief examples from my own recent research that speaks to the different categories of extreme contexts, i.e. mountaineering and zombies.

Bio: Markus Hällgren (markus.hallgren@umu.se) is a professor of management and organization at Umeå School of Business and Economics, Umeå University. His primary research interest is the everyday practice in extreme contexts, and organizational routines, sensemaking and group dynamics. He has done ethnographic fieldwork on mountaineering expeditions, hospital emergency departments, police detectives, IT- and construction projects. Recent projects include indoor climbing & zombies. He leads the research program Extreme Environments – Everyday Decisions (www.tripleED.com) and is co-founder and coordinator of the international “Organizing Extreme Contexts” network (www.organizingextremecontexts.org). Hällgren have received several international and national awards, including the best paper Award for the Annals piece. His work has been published in outlets such as Academy of Management Annals, Management Learning and European Management Journal.