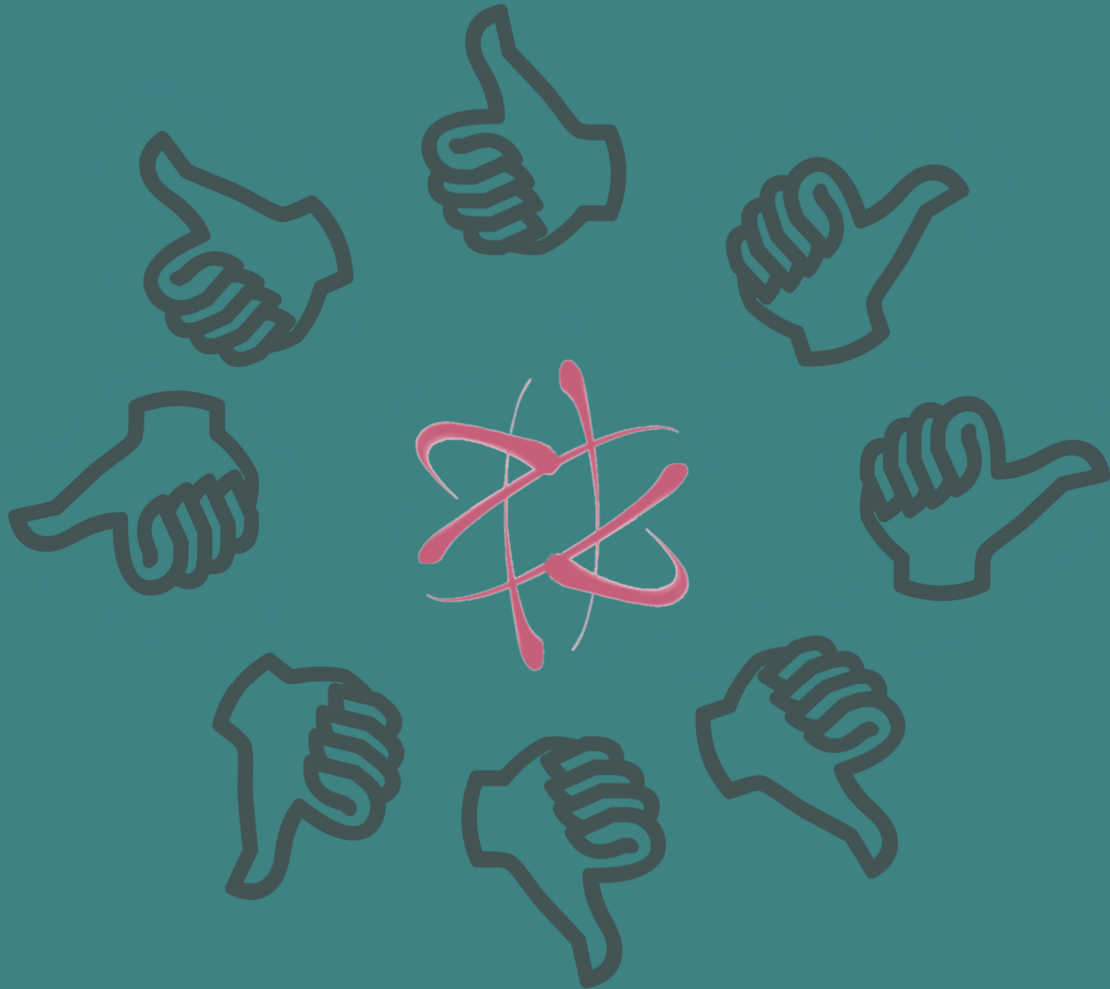


science.knowledge.evaluation

Interdisciplinary workshop at the University of Warwick



9th–10th March 2017
Social Sciences Building—Room A1.11
University of Warwick

info and registration:

sciencews.discourseanalysis.net
evaluation-workshop@warwick.ac.uk

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Interdisciplinary workshop at the University of Warwick

Wherever there emerge value judgements, classifications and hierarchies there occurs valuation – the social construction of values. Recent years have seen the emergence of a new field of scientific enquiry – Sociology of Valuation and Evaluation (SVE), which deals with valuation practices in many areas, such as social relations, economics, and knowledge production. It is on this last area that we wish to focus on during a workshop on *science.knowledge.[e]valuation*.

As researchers we encounter (and perform) valuation every day – be it in assessing our own and other researchers' work, writing grant proposals, dealing with Higher Education policy and in a host of other situations. But the construction of values related to knowledge(s) is by no means limited to academia. We can think of valuation practices taking place in relation to science in non-academic contexts, but also of

the construction of values in the political sphere, in economics, education or in every-day micro practices.

The two day workshop on *science.knowledge.[e]valuation* brings together researchers from the University of Warwick as well as other institutions to reflect on the various practices of (e)valuation which take place in the context of science and knowledge more generally.

The proposed areas of reflection are:

- Valuation and Science
- Valuation and Markets
- Valuation and Social Relations

Please register for the workshop and the public lecture by sending a short mail to evaluation-workshop@warwick.ac.uk or registering on www.sciencews.discourseanalysis.net

Organised by: Johannes Angermuller (Applied Linguistics), Johannes Beetz (Applied Linguistics), Marta Wróblewska (Applied Linguistics), Noortje Marres (Interdisciplinary Methodologies), Juliane Reinecke (WBS)

Supported by: Centre for Applied Linguistics, Department of Sociology, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, PAIS, Social Theory Centre

Contact email: evaluation-workshop@warwick.ac.uk

Homepage: www.sciencews.discourseanalysis.net

Programme

Thursday, 9th of March

10- 11.30 am:

Johannes Angermuller (University of Warwick)

„Citing and being cited. Academic research as a discursive valuation practice“

Claude Rosental (EHESS, Paris)

„How have 20th century social scientists valuated the peoples' logical skills and rationality? Revisiting the debate on "primitive mentality" in the Azande case“

11.45-12.30 pm: Small group roundtable discussions

Mehdi Arfaoui (EHESS, Paris): *„Articulating regimes of valuation“*

Marta Wroblewska (University of Warwick): *„Evaluation of 'research impact' and new valuation practices in academia“*

Johannes Beetz (University of Warwick): *„Positioning and Valuation in the Social Science Discourse“*

Maria do Mar Pereira (University of Warwick): *„(Egalitarian) Public Speeches and (Sexist and Racist) Corridor Talk: (E)valuation and Inequality“*

12.30-13.30 pm: Lunch

13.30-3.00 pm:

Julian Hamann (University Bonn)

„Evaluation as subjectivation. How appointment procedures produce professorial subjects“

Yuval Millo (University of Warwick)

„Indexical Judgment: The Construction of Early Market Indices for Art and Antiques“

3-3.30 pm: Break

3.30 - 5 .00 pm:

Juliane Reinecke (University of Warwick)

„Values qualification in the (conflict-free) gold market“

Noortje Marres (University of Warwick)

„What if nothing happens? Street trials as devices of objectual valuation“

5.00-6.30 pm: Drinks on campus

7.00 pm: Dinner off campus (please register via email)

Programme

Friday, 10th of March

9.30- 11.00 am:

David Stark (Columbia University / University of Warwick)

„The Structure of the Situation is a Network of Attention“

Steve Fuller (University of Warwick)

„Is Academic Knowledge Naturally a Public Good or Does it Need to be Made a Public Good?“

11.00-11.15 am: Break

11.15-12.45 pm: Panel discussion

„Is there an (E)Valuative Turn in the Social Sciences?“

Michèle Lamont

Steve Fuller

David Stark

Claude Rosental

Chair: Noortje Marres

12.45-1.00 pm: Wrap-up session

Public Keynote Lecture

Michèle Lamont

Harvard University

President of the American Sociological Association

Getting Respect

**Responding to Stigma and Discrimination
in the United States, Brazil & Israel**

3-5 pm

The Oculus // Room OC1.06

Abstracts

Johannes Angermuller

(University of Warwick, Centre for Applied Linguistics)

Citing and being cited. Academic research as a discursive valuation practice

Academic researchers value ideas, things and people differently, especially when they are from different fields. Yet values are not just a matter of personal taste. This paper looks into how researchers engage in the valuation of research, more precisely how they construct and assess the value of researchers in their everyday discursive practices. To participate in academic valuations, researchers typically have recourse to 'language', broadly understood as a set of semiotic codes which allows them to categorise and to be categorised by others. Researchers are defined by heterogeneous bundles of categories, some formal, others informal. To negotiate these categories, researchers use text and talk and participate in academic discourse, which is a principal source of value for researchers. As a result of discursive positioning practices involving many researchers, hierarchies can emerge between the few who occupy coveted subject positions and the many who have no voice at all. The paper will discuss a few instances of 'discursive capitalism' in academia against the background of Valuation Studies.

Claude Rosental

(EHESS Paris, Centre d'Étude des Mouvements Sociaux, CNRS)

How have 20th century social scientists valued the peoples' logical skills and rationality? Revisiting the debate on "primitive mentality" in the Azande case

How have social scientists valued the peoples' logical skills and rationality since the beginning of the 20th century? And what has "logic" meant for them? In order to address these issues, I will study more particularly how Lucien Lévy-Bruhl defined his notion of "prelogical mentality" and how Edward Evans-Pritchard, Peter Winch, and David Bloor argued about the issue of the Azande's rationality, depending on what logic meant for them.

Abstracts

Julian Hamann

(Universität Bonn, Forum Internationale Wissenschaft)

Evaluation as subjectivation. How appointment procedures produce professorial subjects

Professorial appointment procedures are arenas for the production of subjectivity. They institutionalize one of the main academic subject categories: "the professor". In my talk I will draw on archived records of appointment procedures to shed light on the bureaucratic side of subjectivation. My contribution will highlight some evaluative practices that guide the institutional process of turning "candidates" into "professors".

Yuval Millo

(University of Warwick, Warwick Business School)

Indexical Judgment: The Construction of Early Market Indices for Art and Antiques

The growth of models, metrics and indicators is a hallmark of the modern economy and a vital part of contemporary markets, but we know relatively little about the processes through which indices come about. In particular, there is scarce empirical research on how designers mediate between their ideal goals, beliefs and the various constraints they are likely to face as they develop the indices. The special features of artworks as unique, difficult-to-value and with a value based on social consensus make the art market an excellent context to study these processes of index-making. Using two pioneering art price indices, the Times-Sotheby and Sotheby Index, we develop a theoretical framework to help us examine how market indices are developed. Using interviews with key figures and extensive documentary analysis, we find that art indices incorporate taken-for-granted epistemic beliefs held by the designers and implementers and the material settings in which the index is developed. In our theory-building we suggest that these two factors shape the resulting indices. Our research contributes to the literature about the organizational and calculative efforts that underpin markets. The research indicates that indices do not simply follow and complement the creation and operation of markets, but instead play an important role in the formation and legitimation of new markets and the establishment of their useful-

Abstracts

Juliane Reinecke

(University of Warwick, Warwick Business School)

Values qualification in the (conflict-free) gold market

Gold has long been seen as the ultimate measure of value. More recently, however, there have been attempts to qualify gold ethically and socially. Specifying gold as ‘eco-friendly gold’, ‘green gold’, ‘fairmined gold’, ‘conflict-free gold’, or in the negative, ‘dirty gold’, ‘conflict gold’, or ‘blood gold’ has been perceived by some as a fundamental threat to the principle of gold’s perfect fungibility. The case of gold, as the ultimate measure of value, and its more recent social qualification, opens up important questions about the relationship between value and values. On the one hand, scholars have been concerned with the quantification of value, that is, the way in which values are transformed and converted into value. On the other hand, sociologists and organizational theorists have focused on the influence of social, cultural, and ethical values on value, arguing that values and value are always dialogic, dependent, and co-constituting. Few studies, however, focus on the ‘politics of values’ that is, the political process of establishing and controlling what and whose values matter in defining valuation criteria and subsequent value.

Noortje Marres

(University of Warwick, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies)

What if nothing happens? Street trials as devices of objectual valuation

This paper draws on the notion of ‘objectual’ practice (Knorr-Cetina, 2009) to investigate a distinctive register of valuation that is becoming prominent in today’s digital societies: objectual valuation. I argue that the social study of this mode of valuation requires an expansive, ‘ontological’ understanding of valuation. The paper clarifies this approach by discussing empirical examples from the fields of digital analytics and intelligent mobility. In different ways, projects in these areas perform objectual valuation: they are invested in the detection or production of ‘happening relations’ in ways that do not require the attribution of behaviours or attributes to individual human subjects. The paper concludes with a discussion of the normative opportunities and dangers of this mode of valuation, focusing on its ability to bring different social domains into relation.

Abstracts

David Stark

(University of Warwick, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies / Columbia University, Department of Sociology / Center on Organizational Innovation)

The Structure of the Situation Is a Network of Attention

Who pays attention to what, when, and with how much intensity? And how do the resulting patterns affect how actors process new information and update beliefs? In financial markets, as in many other social domains, actors pay attention to a multitude of events. The resulting patterns give rise to a network of attention in which actors are linked to events. We study how location in such a network shapes valuation. Arguing that attention networks are structured by the temporality and criticality of the attended events, we develop an event network analysis that accounts for sequences of tie activation and patterns of tie strength. Specifically, we hypothesize that actors whose attention was more recently and more intensely directed toward the same events, and less recently and less intensely to different ones, are more likely to interpret a novel focal event similarly. We test our hypotheses about temporality and intensity of attention in the setting of securities analysts.

Steve Fuller

(University of Warwick, Department of Sociology)

“Is Academic Knowledge Naturally a Public Good or Does it Need to be Made a Public Good?”

Academics (and others) take for granted that knowledge is a public good, and because academics are normally seen as the primary knowledge producers in society, they are seen as by definition producers of public goods. However, this syllogism leaves a lot to be desired. In particular, I shall argue that while academics certainly do produce knowledge, the privileging of ‘research’ over ‘teaching’ in the academy effectively means that we produce knowledge as a club good, not a public good. I shall explore the consequences of this claim, including the prospect that we might need a version of a ‘cultural revolution’ within the academy that actively removes the access costs to knowledge which are largely imposed by a journal-driven culture which rewards relevance to a self-defined ‘cutting edge’ of research over the general public.

Abstracts

Michèle Lamont

(Harvard University, Department of Sociology)

Getting Respect: Responding to Stigma and Discrimination in the United States, Brazil, and Israel

The talk illuminates what kinds of stigmatizing or discriminatory incidents individuals encounter in each country, how they respond to these occurrences, and what they view as the best strategy—whether individually, collectively, through confrontation, or through self-improvement—for dealing with such events. This deeply collaborative and integrated comparative study draws on more than four hundred in-depth interviews with middle- and working-class men and women residing in and around multiethnic cities—New York City, Rio de Janeiro, and Tel Aviv—to compare the discriminatory experiences of African-Americans, black Brazilians, and Arab Palestinian citizens of Israel, as well as Israeli Ethiopian Jews and Mizrahi (Sephardic) Jews. Our detailed analysis reveals significant differences in narratives about behavior. We account for these patterns by the extent to which each group is actually a group, the socio-historical context of intergroup conflict, and the national ideologies, neo-liberal repertoires, and other narratives that group members rely on. We also consider similarities and differences between the middle class and the working class, as well as between men and women, and older and younger interviewees, to capture the extent to which racial identity overshadows the daily experiences of stigmatized groups across contexts. Our hope is that our book will be viewed as making a contribution to the study of everyday racism and stigma management, the quest for recognition, and the comparative study of inequality and processes of cultural change.