

Method/ology Development Workshop

There is nothing to study!

Absences, lacks, the invisible, silence and mystery in Organization Studies

Copenhagen (Denmark), Copenhagen Business School
13th – 14th April 2026

With the support of the Department of Business Humanities and Law,
and the Otto Mønsted Foundation

Submission deadline: November 10th 2025

Hosts & Local Organizers

- Prof Tammar Zilber, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel & CBS, Denmark; Co-Editor-in-Chief of OS (Host)
- Prof Dennis Jancsary, University of Liverpool Management School, Liverpool, UK & WU, Vienna, Austria; Senior Editor of OS (Host)
- Prof Paolo Quattrone, Alliance Manchester Business School, Manchester, UK; MISUM Visiting Professor, SSE, Sweden; & Otto Mønsted Visiting Professor, CBS, Denmark (Local organizer)
- Assoc Prof Stefan Schwarzkopf, CBS, Denmark (Local organizer)

Facilitators/mentors

- Prof Tina Dacin, Smith School of Business, Queen's University, Canada.
- Prof Elena Giovannoni, Birmingham Business School, UK.
- Prof Santi Furnari, Cass Business School, London, UK.
- Prof Markus Höllerer, University of New South Wales, Australia.
- Prof Robin Holt, Bristol Business School, UK.
- Prof Lee Jarvis, Warwick Business School, UK
- Prof Mike Lounsbury, University of Alberta, Canada.
- Prof Renate Meyer, WU, Vienna, Austria.

More than five years ago, *Organization Studies* (OS) launched a new Method/ology section. This signalled the importance that the Journal gives to methodological issues, in all of their dimensions, from ontological and epistemological matters to the creation, co-creation, construction of data and method of analysis. We have reinforced that emphasis with the launch of the new '**Method/ology Development Workshop**' (MDW), which is now in its third edition. Our aim with the MDW is to open a forum to debate and innovate our methodologies and methods in *Organization Studies*. The MDW adds to the two recent Special Issues that the Journal has launched: the first on [Enhancing Organizations Research Involving Meaning and Culture Using Computational Text and Image](#)

[Analyses](#) and the other on [The Future of Qualitative Research in Management and Organization Studies](#) (both undergoing the review process).

As mentioned in *Organization Studies'* Aims and Scope, we are interested in papers that address questions of methodology and method broadly (including philosophy of science, ontology, epistemology, study design, analytical methods, and writing). Method/ology articles should situate themselves firmly within organization studies and tackle issues or problems directly related to the “doing” of organization studies research. They must address topics of interest to readers of *Organization Studies* and make clear the connection to research conducted in *Organization Studies*.

Proposals for this specific MDW should have an interest in ... Nothing! More often than one may think, decisions are taken because of the absence of something. For instance, the lack of sugar in soft drinks determines consumer choices (Mumford, 2022); the absence of a person at a meeting defines decision outcomes (Fuery, 1995); the lack of an event or action leads to consequences (e.g., the lack of sanctions generating certain military actions, Crane, 2020). In addition, decision- and policy-makers are increasingly asked to decide about entities that ‘are not’ there yet (e.g., future generations, Welsh Government, 2015; anticipatory governance, Flyverbom & Garsten, 2021), have no voice (e.g., nature), are invisible or silent (e.g., marginalized communities) or are no longer present (e.g., the remediations cases in slavery). Absences and silences can also become important aspects of management practices (e.g., Anteby, 2013; Giovannoni & Quattrone, 2018; Vu & Fan, 2022). Organization studies and management practice struggle to deal with such absence as they pay an ‘abnormal attention [towards] what the human eye can see, and not [towards] what the human eye cannot see’ (Powell, 2018, p. 306). This MDW intends to remedy this fundamentally asymmetrical relation between the noticeable and the unnoticeable (Zerubavel, 2015) and take a risky and novel path by explicitly putting ‘nothing’ at the core of the MDW to understand how ‘what is not there’, in its various declinations (e.g., absences, lacks, the invisible, silence, mystery) influences individual and collective action (Hirschmann, 1967).

The paper should have:

- a. A clear theoretical or empirical relationship with the theme of the MDW;
- b. A clear contribution to issues of methodology/method;
- c. A clear connection to organizational research and explicit discussion of the implication(s) for research and theorization in our field.

This call is open to scholars at all stages of their careers, within and outside the field of organization theory, as far as their method/methodology is relevant to the development of our discipline.

The workshop is free of charge. Coffee breaks are provided. Travel, accommodation, and other expenses (e.g. dinners) will need to be organized and covered by participants.

To apply for this MDW, please submit an extended abstract (min 1500 – max 2500 words), detailing your related method/methodological contribution along the lines described above.

If their paper is accepted to the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to revise and finalize their paper up to the 29th of March 2026. Between that date and the workshop, each participant will be asked to peer-review several papers of other participants in order to adequately prepare.

Our submission system is open now and applications should be uploaded by clicking here:

[Click to Submit here](#)

Key dates:

Deadline for submission: **November 10th 2025**

Notification of acceptance: **November 30th 2025**

References

- Anteby, Michel (2013). *Manufacturing morals: The values of silence in business education*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Crane, Susan A. (2020). *Nothing Happened: A History*. Stanford University Press.
- Flyverbom, Mikkel, & Garsten, Christina. (2021). Anticipation and organization: Seeing, knowing and governing futures. *Organization Theory*, 2(3), 26317877211020325.
- Giovannoni, Elena, & Quattrone, Paolo (2018). The materiality of absence: Organizing and the case of the incomplete cathedral. *Organization Studies*, 39, 849–871.
- Hirschmann, Alfred, O. (1967). *Development Projects Observed*. Brookings Institution Press.
- Mumford, Steven (2022). *Absence and Nothing: The Philosophy of What There is Not*. OUP Oxford.
- Fuery, 1995
- Powell, Thomas C. (2018). Absence-Neglect and the Origins of Great Strategies. *Strategy Science*, 3(1), 306–312.
- Vu, Mai Chi, & Fan, Ziyun (2022). Sounds of silence: The reflexivity, self-decentralization, and transformation dimensions of silence at work. *Journal of Management Inquiry*, 31(3), 307-325.
- Welsh Government (2015). *Well-being of future generations Act 2015: the essentials*. <https://www.gov.wales/well-being-future-generations>, accessed September 2023.
- Zerubavel, Eviatar (2015). *Hidden in plain sight: The social structure of irrelevance*. OUP USA.