

**22nd ANZAM 2008 Conference
Workshop Template**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop Title 		
Uses and issues around Practice Theory in Management Studies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the Workshop objectives and Workshop activities 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main goal of the workshop is to have a high quality conversation around the challenges of using practice based theories. • To explore and debate how practice theory is “operationalised”. I.e., How can one distinguish between practices such as leading, managing, or strategising? • To examine the explanatory power that practice based theories provide. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 300 word (maximum) description of the Workshop 		
<p>This workshop seeks to bring together scholars who are using theories of practice in their research. Increasingly theories of practice—such as the practice turn in sociology—are important in a variety of arenas to better understanding organisational life. These arenas include strategy (Jarzabkowski 2005); leadership (Carroll, Levy et al. 2007), new product development (Carlile 2004), marketing (Warde 2005), knowledge management (Levina and Vaast 2005), accounting (Hopwood and Miller 1994; Akroyd 2007), and HRM. Practice-based theories tend to focus on the work of the individual, but tempered by the recognition that practices occur intersubjectively. This is consistent with calls to acknowledge that people are agents who construct their work environment, with outcomes shaped through interaction between actors. Using a practice based lens allows researchers to better understand the real work and activities of people in organisations.</p> <p>Reckwitz (2002, p. 249) describes practice as:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a routinized type of behaviour which consist of several elements, interconnected to one another: forms of bodily activities, forms of mental activities, ‘things’ and their use, a background knowledge in the form of understanding, know-how, states of emotion and motivational knowledge.</p> <p>Such descriptions are legion. However, what is less clear is how one might operationalise the use of practice based theories. For example, given such a definition, how can one distinguish between practices such as leading, managing, or strategising?</p> <p>The goal of the workshop is to explore how participants can and do use theories of practices and the issues that are inherent in so doing. For example, how are practices researched and analysed, how are practices distinguished from one-another, what explanatory power do practice theories provide?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of the Workshop to ANZAM members 		
<p>The growing interest in practice based theories is evident in the fact that practice based streams now exist at major conferences (AOM, BAM, EGOS, SMS). There are also a large number of workshops held throughout Europe.</p> <p>This workshop will appeal to anyone utilising practice based theories in their research.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names, titles and affiliations of the organiser(s) and other presenters 		
1. Professor	Frank	Müller
2. Mr	Peter	Smith
3. Ms	Lisa	Callagher