

Studying Craft and Craftsmanship in Organizations - summary of craft workshop

A two day workshop programme on “Studying Craft and Craftsmanship in Organizations” took place in early May.

The program started with a keynote speech by Richard Ocejo (City University of New York, USA) who talked about his experiences with researching various crafts for his book “Masters of Craft”. Subsequently, academics from a variety of institutions, including Bern University of Applied Sciences, Erasmus University Rotterdam, King’s College London, Open University UK, Queen’s University Canada and University of Warwick, presented ongoing research projects on craft. The workshop also included a craft demonstration by Robin Wood (wood carving) and Owen Jones (oak swill basket making). In addition, during a policy maker panel that welcomed speakers from the Crafts Council UK, the Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the Heritage Crafts Association UK, participants compared the state of the crafts across countries, explored how to define craft and discussed what they are doing to stimulate the crafts. The workshop concluded with a discussion on future research directions by professors from the field of management and organization studies.

Overall, the workshop exposed participants to a wide variety of crafts, stimulated thought on theoretical and empirical perspectives for craft research in organization studies and created opportunities for new collaborations among the various participants. Along the way, participants were cautioned not to be “seduced” by crafts, but to also critically examine the role of crafts in society and in particular their impact on issues around economic and gender inequality.

The workshop was organised by Innan Sasaki (Lancaster University Management School), Davide Ravasi (Cass Business School), Jochem Kroezen (University of Cambridge), and Roy Suddaby (University of Victoria & University of Newcastle), and sponsored by the Lancaster University Impact Fund.

