



Call for papers 16th Organizations, Artifacts & Practices (OAP) Workshop

The living wildness of organizing: *Nurturing ecologies of possibilities*

#OAP2026

When: June 3rd and 4th 2026

Where: Copenhagen Business School. In-person event.

Co-chairs:

Attila Márton
(CBS)

Tina Blegind Jensen
(CBS)

Michel Avital
(CBS)

François-Xavier de Vaujany
(UPD-PSL)

Aurélie Leclercq-
Vandelannoitte
(IESEG & CNRS)

Marc Lenglet
(Neoma BS)

Albane Grandazzi
(GEM)

Julien Mallaurent
(ESSEC)

This 16th OAP workshop, jointly organized by the Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Université Paris Dauphine-PSL (DRM) and ESSEC (Metalab), will be an opportunity to think anew the role and meaning of organizing in a world of infinite possibilities, yet devoid of any promise of stability (Tsing 2015). In response to the broadly constructed ecology of crises (Bateson, 2023), combining social, technological, environmental, and geopolitical runaway, there is an urgent need to envision and cultivate a generative ecology of possibilities that can sustain our *vita activa*, our capabilities to act and create (Arendt 1958) and to open new possibilities (Whitehead, 1929, 1938). It is also necessary to provide a viable alternative to the control-based, order-oriented nature of most managerial systems and actors (Nyman et al., 2023). Flânerie, reverie, drift, and letting go might help to reconcile ourselves with the vitality of the world (Pavlovich and Chia, 2010).

This turn includes the wilding of organization theory (Parker, 2022), the participation of plural actors in the face of rising authoritarianism (Meyer, 2025), and the espoused liberation from the modernist obsession to fix precarity (Márton and Ens, 2025). It also includes reclaiming digitality as a collective capability to multiply organizational activities (Hultin et al, 2021; Carlisle and Gruby, 2019), cultivate infrastructural involvement (Aanestad and Jensen, 2011), nurture a culture of possibilities (Debaise 2022), and democratize knowledge creation (Avital, 2024).

Opportunities for collective and participatory action are everywhere, especially within overlooked grassroots movements and initiatives. Yet, these possibilities need to be de-placed from their privileged sites (de Vaujany and Introna, 2024), whether in business schools, corporate headquarters, governmental administrations, and other institutionalized managerial systems that seek to contain them. Hence, we call for provocative explorations of **the living wildness of organizing** as a teeming source of new possibilities to counter the politics of despondency and alienation. Organizational, societal, political, and technological developments require new theories and philosophies that nurture them into ecologies of possibilities rather than utopian or dystopian impossibilities. It is against this backdrop that organization and organizing need to be, more than ever, a multiplicity (Linstead and Thanem, 2007). This we understand in the broadest sense, ranging from the orchestral attunement of polycentricity and polyrhythmicity (Resch and Rozas, 2025; Ostrom, 2009) to the entangled messiness of rhizomic sprawl and existential precarity (Chia, 1999; Shotwell, 2016).

The workshop will explore, though not be limited to, the following questions:

- How can we theorize organization in a world without the promise of control, order and stability? What theories provoke us to rethink the meaning of organization?
- How can we design, experiment, imagine governance systems, organizational processes, strategic management practices, and technological applications likely to nurture ecologies of possibilities?
- How can we cultivate a culture of possibilities?
- Beyond historical trends, what can cosmologies and philosophies teach us about organizational multiplicity and the decentring of life and experience?
- How can we provoke a fruitful conversation without “disciplining” it?
- What are the old and new ontologies likely to explore and experiment it?
- What are the links between organizational theory and the ecology of crises?

Those topics are at the intersection of organization studies, information systems, law, anthropology (ontologies), sociology, and political philosophy which will be covered by our workshop.

The event will also be opened to **more traditional OAP ontological discussions** concerning the time, space, place and materiality of organizing in a digital era, e.g., papers discussing ontologies, posthumanism, process perspectives, sociomateriality, affordances, spacing, timing, emplacement, atmosphere, events, becoming, practices, flows, moments, existentiality, verticality and instants in the context of our digital world.

Please note that OAP 2026 will include two pre-events, with the Dauphine Philosophy Workshop (DPW) 2026 and the first GeoHos workshop (the workshop about Geopolitical and Historical Organization Studies) hosted by the HIMO project.

Extended abstracts of no more than 1,000 words for the 16th OAP workshop should be sent to workshopoap@gmail.com. The abstract must outline the applicant's proposed contribution to the workshop. The proposal must be in .doc/.docx/.rtf format and should contain the author's/authors' names as well as their institutional affiliations, email address(es), and postal address(es). Deadline for submissions will be **February 3rd, 2026** (midnight CET).

Authors will be notified of the committee's decision by **February 28th, 2026**.

Please note that OAP 2026 will take place only onsite this year.

There are no registration fees for attending this workshop; however, participants will be responsible for covering their travel and accommodation expenses.

Organizing committee: Attila Márton (CBS), Tina Blegind Jensen (CBS), H  l  ne Bussy-Socrate (PSB), Marc Lenglet (Neoma BS), S  bastien Lorenzini (Universit   Paris Dauphine-PSL, DRM), Julien Mallaurent (ESSEC), Michel Avital (CBS) and Fran  ois-Xavier de Vaujany (Universit   Paris Dauphine-PSL, DRM).

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