



Institut für Soziologie & Arbeits- und Organisationspsychologie

Einladung zum Gastvortrag von

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"Work-Life Organization as Situated Practice"

There is considerable research on how digital technologies affect work-life boundaries. Much of this research has focused on individuals' personal tolerance for boundary permeability, and opinion seems sharply divided between technology being a flexible support or a distracting control mechanism. In this presentation, an alternative perspective on boundary management as an ongoing sociomaterial practice is adopted in order to tease out the more complex and emergent activities involved in accomplishing everyday work-life arrangements. Such analysis draws attention to the everyday entanglement of spaces, (digital) materiality, bodies and meaning which produce different tensions for work-life organization at different times (e.g. 'relaxed working', 'invisible working' and 'captured working'). New digital technologies do not determine outcomes and individuals creatively manage the tension of multiple agencies on a daily basis, encouraging us to problematize the notion of a simplistic work-life dichotomy and a strategic approach to boundary management. Such practices are not only largely invisible to research but to the participants themselves, as the observation of their own activities apparently revealed new personal insights. Consequently, in this presentation the concept of 'video as reflective artefact' is also discussed and critically evaluated.

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