Some reflections on the s-as-p track at the 22nd EGOS Colloqium

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Areas covered by the papers presented

- Denis/Dompierre/Langley/Rouleau (ANT)
- Bouty/Gomez/Drucker-Godard (no theory)
- Journé/Raulet-Croset (Goffman/Weick)
- Spedale (Weick)
- Legrand/Kisfalvi (no theory)
- Nyberg/Mueller (no theory)
- Hällgren/Söderholm (no theory)
- Mesure (no theory)
- Storey/Selaman (no theory)

- Arx/Rüegg-Stürm/Tuckermann (Bourdieu/Giddens/Luhmann)
- Trigo/Angwin/Wilson (no theory)
- Babeau/Golsorkhi (Bourdieu)
Use of Theory

Types of theories used:
- Meta-theories/theoretical approaches: Bourdieu, Giddens, de Certeau, ANT, Complexity Theory, Sensemaking, Institutional Theory, Luhmann, Discourse Theory
- Specific ('midrange') theories: Dynamic Capabilities, Decision theory etc.
- Theoretical concepts: boundary object, episodes etc.

Role of the Theory:
- Exploration of the usefulness of a theory for s-as-p (e.g. Campbell-Hunt)
- Use of a theory for a particular research question (e.g. Denis/Dompierre/Langley/Rouleau)
- Contribution of s-as-p to a particular theory (e.g. Regnér; Bygdas)
Types of “Performance”

- Reaching decisions
- ‘Implementation’ of decisions
- Strategic initiatives taking off
- *Usefulness* to the practitioner
- Creativity/new products
- Success in setting up new plants
- Dealing with failure
- Coping with one’s role
General issues raised

- (Conceptual) core to s-as-p / practice lens
- Do you have to focus on all three ‘Ps’
- Degree of agency
- Focus on individuals vs. interaction
- What is a practice vs. a function / vs. an activity
- Ethical questions of research (disclosure of the researcher’s role)
General observations

- Large number of empirical papers (27 papers) vs. theoretical/conceptual papers (8 papers)
- A lot of “identity work”: who are we? How do we differ?
- More coherence between the papers than previous years (but still heterogeneity)
- More awareness of each other’s work (cross-references, “seminal works”)  
- Empirical focus on failure (30 % of papers)
- French invasion (strong social theory background)