

LINES OF RESEARCH

IOT – Institutions, Organisations and Work

Posted on Sept 06, 2012

IOT focuses on a set of theoretical approaches that are the object of intellectual efforts made by the academic and teaching staff, which include: economic sociology, social networks, cooperation and policies, the new Institutionalism in Organisational Analysis, work analysis and organisational constraints and transaction cost savings. One of the initiatives of this line of research is the Study Centre in Economic and Financial Sociology (NESEFI) [www.nesefi.dep.ufscar.br], whose members include Master's, Doctoral and Undergraduate students linked to the Department of Production Engineering, as well as other courses and programs from UFSCar and even from outside the university.

Research topics

▪ **Institutional Economics:**

This is a line of research that proposes to study the influence of institutions on economic life focusing on negotiation costs among agents, market power resulting from more efficient co-ordination and regulatory policies of various markets. In this area, topics such as information asymmetry, uncertainties and moral risks in contracts and tacit agreements, vertical integration and quasi-integration schemes in production chains can receive specific attention for studies concerning competitiveness and strategies of firms in the market. Cooperative network formations as alternative and hybrid forms of market governance are studied with the aim of improving concepts and analysis variables of institutional economics.

▪ **Network Studies:**

Based on the network approach, research seeks to investigate problems of quite different natures, such as: social networks, power networks, cooperation networks, etc. The studies may or may not use more formalized tools. In addition to characterizing the networks, studies also speculate on the consequences - economic or otherwise - of such configurations. The analyses are developed from the perspective of networks as a form of governance, as well as a form of analysis.

- **History of Organizations and their Agents**

Using Organisational Theory as a theoretical reference, our objective here is to analyse concrete organisational trajectories - including creation, growth, development, evolution, involution, disappearance, etc. of organizations over time. This perspective of analysis, by incorporating an approach into the historical conditions that have produced certain organizational configurations, can enrich and complement "here and now" approaches. At the same time, there is a possibility of operating a cut not from the organisation itself, but from inserting a type of social agent within organisations (entrepreneurs, for example, or even a certain professional category). In this case, considering the importance of immigrants in the historical conformation of businesses in São Paulo, it is opportune to investigate the modus operandi of what is conventionally called ethnic economy.

- **Economic Sociology and Governance:**

The area of economic sociology has gained significant importance recently as a natural evolution path for many researchers who in the past were interested in organisational studies, agrarian society, urban marginality, employment and work. In another way, we observe the growing interest of analysts, originating from social studies concerning the sciences by constructing and diffusing modern financial instruments. This is how the "Economic Sociology" rubric currently covers the influences of finance on the universe of organizations, studies on the effectiveness of public policies to combat poverty and create jobs and income, new conformations of economic insertions and corresponding markets, as well as the critical study of the world of finance and the transformations it has engendered in other spheres of contemporary sociability, such as families, professions, education and rural, industrial work organisation the service sector.

- **Theory of Organizations:**

The projects and orientations developed here start from the premise that the organization is a multifaceted phenomenon that cannot be satisfactorily understood from a single theoretical perspective. Because of this, complementary (and even competing) approaches can be adopted. In general, we study topics such as social responsibility, organizational learning, company games, various organisational designs, adaptive dynamics, organizational fields, etc., both in private and public organisations.

- **Work and Organizations:**

Work analysis and its organizational constraints are the central object of analysis here. For this perspective, it is important to analyze work delimited by the formal and informal characteristics of organisations, which create objective constraints and subjective meanings to be exercised by different workers and professionals. This theme maintains relevant interfaces with other disciplines, both internal to Production Engineering and external, such as Economics, Sociology and Labour Law, maintaining its specificity by privileging the relations between work and concrete organisational contexts, based mainly on analytical concerns.

- **Governance and Institutional/Organisational Design:**

It is considered that individual and collective actions occur within an institutional framework of reference that both delimits and encourages choices understood as 'rational constructions', functioning as an element of governance of these choices. Based on theoretical frameworks concerning organisational theory in economic sociology and neo-institutionalism, this line of research aims to identify the elements of governance associated with the dynamics of technological innovation (for products, processes or management) in the organisational and inter-organisational fields, seeking to derive contributions for organisational designs and policies that positively stimulate these dynamics.

Courses

- ENP 124 - Institutions, Organisations and Development
- ENP 122 - Work Organisation
- ENP 120 - Theory of Organisations
- ENP 129 - Advanced Topics in Governance and Organisations: Economic Sociology

Teaching staff (*Curriculum Lattes*)

E-mail

Prof. Dr. Júlio César Donadone

julio@dep.ufscar.br

Prof. Dr. Luiz Fernando de Oriani e Paulillo

dlfp@ufscar.br

Prof. Dr. Mário Sacomano Neto

msacomano@ufscar.br

Prof. Dr. Oswaldo Mário Serra Truzzi

truzzi@ufscar.br

Prof. Dr. Roberto Grun

drgr@ufscar.br