

Acknowledgements, second edition

Since the first edition of *How to Conduct a Practice-based Study: Problems and Methods* was written, theorizing on practice has matured significantly. Practice-based approaches are now well-established, offering a pluralistic way to look at practices as an empirical object of social research. However, the field is still in its infancy.

What sparked my desire for this significantly revised and extended edition was first, to include many of the great practice theoretical and empirical works published in recent years. Secondly, I was delighted to see that the first edition was received as an accessible entrance point to the practice debate in the studies of working, learning and organizing.

In this new version, my aim is to add clarity and to elaborate more fully on some of the intricate theoretical and practical challenges of the practice of 'doing practice research'. It is a continuation of my methodology in the first edition of the book. Given that 'practice theory' is a multiple object done differently within different epistemic practices, this book offers an ongoing narrative of how the practice of 'doing research on practice' has been done, can be done and can be creatively innovated. Storytelling is my guiding principle.

An important goal of the book is to open up the debate and seek connections between practice theories, so as to ensure a fruitful dialogue and a clearer articulation of differences between practice theoretical accounts. In this second edition I emphasize the difference between a humanist approach focused on humans *and* their practices and a posthumanist approach focused on the process of connecting all the practice elements that achieve agency through their connection. Bodies – humans, non-humans, more-than-humans – materialities, knowledge and discourses are *inside* a practice and constitutive of it.

I am entirely responsible for this methodological journey across the practice turn in organization studies. However, it would not have been possible without the collaboration and the fertile cultural environment provided by the Research Unit on Communication, Organizational Learning and Aesthetics (www.unitn.it/rucola), and by the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Trento. I therefore extend particular thanks to all my colleagues, and especially to Antonio

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I am also deeply indebted to all my colleagues and friends who have allowed me to describe their works and present them in the form of short stories from the field. I hope that I have been respectful of their thoughts, and I apologize for any errors or omissions.

Every book is a collective undertaking, and a plethora of people have contributed. To name them all would be an impossible task, nevertheless to all of them I extend my gratitude.

