

Call for Abstracts

Modelling Organisational Behaviour and Social Agency

Workshop coordinators: Davide Secchi* and Martin Neumann†

The event is hosted by Bournemouth University, Executive Business Centre, 89 Holdenhurst Road, BH8 8EB, Bournemouth, UK

Agent-based models (ABMs) allow to observe the complexity of a system's interactions in the making. This is of interest for the social sciences because of a presumed ontological correspondence of agents with the atoms of social life (Squazzoni, 2012). An agent can be anything from states (Axelrod, 1995) to socio-cultural structures (e.g., Neumann, 2008, 2010), to the environment (Drogul et al., 1995). This methodological vagueness can be the scrutinised with the theoretical question of what is the basic unit for the analysis of social systems in-between culture, organisation, interactions, and the body (e.g., Gilbert, 2008; Gilbert & Troitzsch, 2005). This is of particular relevance for the analysis of organisations (Fioretti, 2013; Miller & Lin, 2010; Secchi, 2013; Zhang & Zhang, 2007).

We would like to bring together a group of people that is interested in any aspect of ABM of social agents in organisations. We invite submissions that seek to examine the applications, structure, how-to, potentials, and philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of ABMs applied to organisational behaviour and social agency. The workshop welcomes contributions from any discipline, including but not limited to psychology, sociology, management, computer science, cognitive science, artificial intelligence, economics, philosophy. Submissions may range from empirical investigations to theoretical and philosophical studies.

The agenda of the workshop is set by but not restricted to questions such as the following:

- How do individuals process information, internalise norms, behaviours and, more broadly, set exchange mechanisms with external resources?
- How may this be modelled as a socially distributed cognitive system (Hutchins, 1995) that supports socially-extended decision making (i.e., 'docility' Simon, 1993; Secchi & Bardone, 2009)?
- What are the advantages to analyse social and organisational phenomena such as conflict, unethical and irrational behaviour, misinterpretation of norms, bandwagon or snob effects via ABMs and how would this advance our knowledge?

- What is the link, if any, between distributed cognition (Hutchins, 1995) and ABMs?

Abstracts of up to 1,000 words (excluding references, tables, figures, etc.), double-space, standard font should be submitted by **November 3, 2013**, midnight, London time. Recommendations on submitted abstracts will be notified by December 1, 2013. Please send your manuscript as an email attachment to Davide Secchi, extendable.rationality@gmail.com, subject line: "Paper Submission - ABM Workshop." Please feel free to email with any questions you might have on proposals, fit, topics, process, etc.

If your proposal is accepted, registration is expected by **December 15**. All events sponsored by the AISB require participants to become members of the society. Information on membership can be found here <http://www.aisb.org.uk/>. We see this as a way to thank AISB for supporting the event.

Registration to the workshop is made via the registration form https://bournemouthbusiness.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eaqPFLcXymUjb7f. When registering you will be asked to provide the AISB membership number as proof that you are member and can attend the workshop.

Summary of important dates:

- November 3, 2013—submission deadline
- December 1, 2013—notice of acceptance
- December 15, 2013—registration deadline
- January 27-28, 2014—workshop

The plan is to publish the papers presented at the workshop in a book, edited by Davide Secchi and Martin Neumann. If the workshop is successful, we may extend it to a series of events and publication initiatives. This is a tentative schedule of what happens after the workshop:

- March 16, 2014—submission of full papers
- June 15, 2014—peer reviews due
- July 13, 2014—revised chapters due
- November-December 2014—publication (depends on the publishing company)

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