Thursday, 23rd and Friday, 24h January 2020
in Lyon, France

Designing the Commons:
Collaborative spaces, Open communities, Smart cities

1. Topic of the 4th International Symposium #RGCS2020

Collaborative spaces, open communities, and smart cities, share one similar objective: designing the commons as a third way between the State and the Market. #RGCS2020 will be focused on building commons (digital, community-based, in organization) to explore new ways of collaborating, innovating, and creating knowledge. The question of creating and sharing open knowledge is often central to collaborative spaces projects. In cities, for examples, open data driven innovation is a lever to implementing civic collaborative projects and may lead to digital commons (Fuster Morell, 2010). Information and knowledge resources are collectively created and owned or shared between or among a community.

The concept of commons was first employed to speak of common-pool resources that require collective management (Ostrom, 1990, 2009; Ostrom et al., 1999) or else risk facing "the tragedy of the commons" (Hardin, 1968) — that is to say, excessive exploitation of a common good (e.g. fish stock) for private purposes according to the well-known logic of the free rider (Olson, 1965).

After the first works on the commons, which date back to the late 1970s and which focus on the management of rare resources, the idea of the commons was reinvented, in particular around culture (Bertacchini, 2012), the use of the Internet (Benkler, 1997, 2006, 2011) and knowledge (Hess et Ostrom, 2011).

Privatization constitutes a constant threat to communal resources (take Polanyi's example of the creation of enclosures in the 18th century as "a revolution of the rich against the poor" – Polanyi, 2001). As the global economy rests largely on the production and distribution of knowledge, there is a strong temptation to appropriate collaboratively produced knowledge for one's own personal gain.

Looking "knowledge" as a resource, may explain movements such as Free Software[1], Open Access (Suber, 2012) and Creative Commons licenses (Lessig, 2004, 2006), which seek to make the resource communal, a commons —that is to say, a good that is communally managed in order to prevent its private appropriation.

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[1] https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/philosophy.en.html

Collaborative spaces, have often inherited the collaborative DNA of the Web (Coleman, 2012 ; Lallement, 2015), seen as a commons. Maybe one of the most popular example is the MIT fab lab (Gershenfeld, 2011, 2015). This collaborative DNA raises questions in organizations: how to combine hierarchical relationships and collective actions? How to implement a new mode of governance when the boundaries of the organization aren't clear?

On the political side (Dardot et Laval, 2014; Hardt et Negri, 2011), people organize commons to take care of their surrounding. Some cities are viewed as a commons. The idea of urban commoning is a process of experimentation of urban collaborative governance, sharing cities, platform cooperativism, complementary currencies, etc.

The 4th RGCS symposium wants to investigate the new collaborative practices inspired by the commons in the workplace, in the city, in social movements, and their impact on public and private organizations and on society.

We welcome both theoretical and empirical studies. For inspiration, we provide examples of key topics below. Papers on other topics are also welcome as long as they explicitly contribute to research on collaborative spaces / communities / movements and the transformation of cities:

- The commons as an organization principle
- Digital commons and their impact on organizations, cities, societies
- Scientific commons, open science, open knowledge, open education
- Urban commons and the city as a commons
- Repair, DIY, DIT, maker movements and their relationship with society, organizations, organizing and their joint transformations
- Makerspaces & (innovation) labs as networks, contributors to open knowledge and their translation in a corporate environment
- Open innovation & entrepreneurship and how it is grounded, justified, fed by open knowledge and commons
- Spatial, temporal, visual, and material dimensions of commoning in changing cities & ecosystems
- The legitimation and co-legitimation of collaborative techniques, collaborative communities, and corporate projects
- 'Gilets jaunes' and commons
- Historical views on commons in the city, comparative historical perspectives on the phenomena
- New work practices & future of work

We also welcome papers that investigate epistemological and methodological challenges of organizational ethnographic approaches of new collaborative practices.

2. RGCS in a nutshell

RGCS is both an alternative learned society, a think tank and an immaterial maker space about and for new work practices. Collaborative communities and collaborative movements (coworkers, makers, hackers, DIY) are both a research object and a lever to transform work practices.

Since late 2016, the network co-produces a new research method OWEE (Open Walked Event-Based Experimentations) aiming at transforming jointly academic and entrepreneurial work practices. This method aims at becoming a commons for academics and entrepreneurs involved in it (e.g. with a sharing of the symbolic capital of impact and citations).

For more details about the Research Group on Collaborative Spaces (RGCS): @collspaces or http://rgcs-owee.org

3. Submission process and organization of the fourth RGCS symposium

All those interested in participating are welcome. Submissions will be based on an extended abstract (1.000 words, Times New Roman font). All submissions, related to RGCS or not, are welcome.

The deadline for submissions will be **23rd of October 2019.**

The event will **include academic presentations, keynote conferences, panels, OWEE… and surprises!**

In addition, the number of seats at the symposium will be limited and registration will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

For questions or submissions: collaborativespaces@gmail.com

Local organizing committee

Amélie Bohas (IAE Lyon), Sabine Carton (Univ. Grenoble Alpes), Julie Fabbri (emlyon business school), Martine Huyon (Sciences Po Lyon), and David Vallat (Université Lyon 1).

Scientific board

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