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Abstract:

With this presentation, the aim is to encourage Workshop discussions that may be broached also in relation to *how*, and by *what*, intervening is manifested in the processes of research. This may entail some momentary shifting (or de-emphasizing) from the enactment of interventions as part and parcel of research, per se, towards an overall consideration of what intervenes productively *in* research, albeit possibly contingently so. While the two are not mutually exclusive, the latter may potentially contribute, also to some appreciation of the underpinnings of interventions as a collectively and generatively enacted endeavor –for instance, *generative* prototyping in design research being but one such example (e.g. contributions of Binder, and Halse and Boffi, respectively, in Smith et al., 2016).

My point of departure in the presentation will be a number of empirical encounters of my own (in the form of snippets) from assorted projects, prior and ongoing, in the area of health care practices and humanitarian aid endeavors, respectively. They range from projects with an ethnographic analytical focus, to others going also into design interventions for generative research and 'making' (design synthesis). Both types of projects encompass ethnographic field work as their empirical basis.

Albeit through such brief empirical illustrations, the presentation will elaborate on the idea that intervention (be it in the form of contingent aspects *in*, or enacted events *with*, 'the field') is a means to recover or proactively open up for possible contingencies. This so while the field, inarguably, is shifting and being shaped, as it unfolds, emerges, and also is delimited in the process (also owing to the interventions). Interventions – and an appreciation of intervening entities – are hereby a means to explore *matters of concern* (Latour, 2005). Moreover, attention to interventions bears open also as to issues of how 'discerning' and 'concerning', come to be – being thus of relevance to discussions on generatively prototyping, and more broadly, the occasioning of 'figuring things together' (Suchman, 2014). It entails contesting and discerning boundaries, and concerning and making relevant, otherwise potentially

unrecognized or unrealized connections. The presentation aims to tie such sensitivity into the discussions on prototyping – where, through interventions, actors and things are entering (and mutually displacing) into particular articulations and transformations. Thus, interventions, and *prototyping* interventions, are integral to, and serve toward, ontological displacements. They partially, or more radically, open issues of multi-valence and configuration up to scrutiny, and to leveraging and potentially reconfiguring socio-material relations (Marres, 2015).

References

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