



## Lecture:

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# **About events. Researching intranet software as a ‘sociomaterial assemblage’**

Date: Monday, April 04, 2011

Time: 17.00-18.00 Uhr

Place: Institut für Höhere Studien, Seminarraum Soziologie

Investigating sociomaterial relations requires a further development of well-known research methods. In order to do justice particularly to the effects of materialities, it is necessary to amend already established research strategies. During the last years, new orientations have been developed especially in relation to ethnographic methodologies. For example, Annemarie Mol's 'Praxiography' is such a strategy; it constitutes a *mapping* of practices. Here, the notion of 'practice' is used to similarly include human and non-human actors and, moreover, to do justice to the spatial distinctiveness of sociomaterial networks.

This paper explores first of all the notion of practice that has become prominent not only in the area of science and technology studies but in social theory in general. Furthermore, it illustrates methodological implications and difficulties when drawing on this concept. In fact, researching practices entails not alone to ask people about their experience but to trace 'events' and their interrelation. Finally, the paper discusses these thoughts in the context of my empirical research: it examines intranet software in different working settings of one company. In doing so, it explores the software's distinct appearances corresponding to different situations and moreover, its effects on working processes.

M.A. Katja Schönian is Scholar at the Department of Sociology at the Institute for Advanced Studies. She has studied Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London and 'Philosophy and Culture' at Witten/Herdecke University.