

Séminaire scientifique de l'OSC

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Vendredi 15 avril 2016
11h30 - 13h, salle Annick Percheron
98, rue de l'Université - Paris 7^e

Group Pleasures: Collaborative Commitments, Narrative Gratification, and the sociology of Fun



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As a consequence of their size and fragility, small groups depend on cohesion. Central to the continuation of groups are occasions of hedonic pleasure that encourage attachment. These times are popularly labeled “fun.” While groupness can be seen as the cause of fun, we emphasize the effects of fun on group life, while recognizing that on occasion group leaders strategically generate fun. Shared pleasure, located in temporal and spatial affordances, creates the conditions for communal identification. Such moments serve as commitment devices building affiliation, modeling positive relations, and moderating interpersonal tension. Further, they encourage retrospective narration, providing an appealing past, an assumed future, and boundaries between the group and those outside. The rhetoric of fun produces interactional smoothness in the face of potential ruptures. Building on the authors’ field observations and on other ethnographies of group activity, we argue that the experience and recall of fun bolsters group formation, maintenance, and reproduction.

Workshop avec les doctorants de Sciences Po, mercredi 20 avril (info : juliette.galonnier@sciencespo.fr)

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