

# Guidelines and Criteria for the Submission of Short Papers at EGOS Colloquia

Short papers should focus on the main ideas of the later full paper, i.e. they should explain the purpose of the paper, theoretical background, the research gap that is addressed, the approach taken, the methods of analysis (in empirical papers), main findings and contributions. In addition, it is useful to indicate clearly how the paper links with the sub-theme and the overall theme of the Colloquium, although not all papers need to focus on the overall theme. Creativity, innovativeness, theoretical grounding and critical thinking are typical characteristics of EGOS papers.

Your short paper should comprise **around 3,000 words** (inc. references, appendices, and other material).

**Submission deadline** for short papers for the (main) 42<sup>nd</sup> EGOS online Colloquium hosted by the University of Bergamo, July 9–11, 2026:

- Tuesday, January 7, 2026, **12:00 CET**

The deadline is unchangeable and therefore **extensions can not be granted!**

## Formatting your short paper

Your short paper should comprise **around 3,000 words**, according to the following format:

- Font: 12 pt, Arial or Times New Roman
- Margin left/right: 2.5 cm
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Use APA style for your citations

**Do not use capital letters** in your paper's title, unless they are proper nouns (e.g. "London", "Thomas"), quoted titles, or if it is the first word after a colon or hyphen. For example: *Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn": Summary, analyses, and quotations*. Do not write your title in ALL CAPS.

Please **state your name** (and that of your co-author/s, if applicable) + affiliation + email at the top of your short paper (because no [single/double blind] peer review).

Short papers should be submitted as a **pdf or docx file**. Please do not upload txt files!



## Steps prior to uploading your short paper

- To upload a short paper, you must be a **registered user** on the EGOS website.
  - If you have never been an EGOS member, never uploaded a short paper for one of the previous EGOS Colloquia, or never attended an EGOS Colloquium before, you need to **register on the EGOS website**. Click [here](#) and follow the instructions. Once you have an EGOS member number and password, please **log in to the member area “MyEGOS”** and follow the instructions for uploading your short paper listed below.
- If you are an active (or former) EGOS member, **log in to “MyEGOS”** using your email [or your EGOS member number] and your password.

## Uploading your short paper

You can **only upload one short paper** with your EGOS member number! If your short paper is co-authored and you have already submitted a (single-authored) short paper to another sub-theme, then your co-author (one of your co-authors, respectively) has to upload this co-authored short paper by using their EGOS member number. Please note: You may only appear as **co-author in a maximum of TWO further short papers!**

- In the MyEGOS section of the website, click on **Submit your short paper**.
- Fill in the form.
  - Do not use ALL CAPS for your paper title.
  - As the uploader, you are the main author. Add all co-authors (can also be added when submitting your full paper).
  - Upload your paper as pdf or docx.
- If you want to re-upload your short paper because you submitted it to the wrong sub-theme or have an updated version, you can do so until the deadline:
  - In MyEGOS, you will see Status: Edit your short paper
  - Click delete your short paper application.
  - Submit your short paper again.

If you have any further questions, please contact the [EGOS Executive Secretariat](#).



# Sub-theme 06: [SWG] Facts, Fiction, and the Fabric of Organizing: Exploring the Performative and Constitutive Power of (Non-)Truth Communication



42<sup>nd</sup> EGOS  
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## Call for Papers

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This sub-theme is concerned with the eroding orientation toward truth as a value that guides our organized action in democratic societies. We use the notion of 'non-truth' as an umbrella term to capture the alarming proliferation of unsupported, misleading, and deceptive communication in public discourse. In a world characterized by multiple global and interconnected crises (Lawrence et al., 2024), mis- and disinformation, fake news, and conspiracy theories (Bennett & Livingston, 2020; Meyer & Quattrone, 2021), it becomes increasingly difficult to make sense of competing truth claims and their relation to social realities: What is true and non-true if truthfulness comes in varied and misleading shapes? This communication-centred phenomenon also affects organization and organizing, which generates a call to interrogate how (non-)truths are (co)constructed, how they constitute organizational and other collective phenomena, and what performative effects they entail. On a broader note, the increasing proliferation of non-truths raises the question of the moral duty of organizations, including business firms, to help safeguard democracy (Bennett &



Uldam, 2024), also considering that the idea of democracy is based on orientation toward truthfulness explored in deliberative discourse (Scherer & Palazzo, 2007).

Scholars have been alarmed by the proliferation of non-truth communication, as it can result in a fragmentation into distinct language games and thus a disintegration of social and organizational realities (Bail, 2021; Knight & Tsoukas, 2019). At the same time, research highlighted that determining the truth-value of business language is no easy accomplishment either (Arthur, 2003). A growing number of studies pointing out that organizations are increasingly accepting of 'bullshit', that is, obscure, empty, or pretentious talk (Christensen et al., 2019; Spicer, 2013), or that institutions make commitments and speech acts that seem performative but are actually failing to bring the effects they name (Ahmed, 2009). That being said, fictions, expectations, and other 'non-truths' are inherent part of the ways we organize and move forward (e.g., Savage et al., 2018), with their own performative effects on what is enacted in organizational settings and how power relations are maintained or even enforced (Sharma, 2014). Organizations and organizing always involve projections toward what does not (yet) exist – such as imagined futures (Wenzel et al., 2020; Beckert, 2021) or aspirations (Christensen et al., 2021). Organizational actors materialize values, missions, principles, beliefs, rules, and other seemingly intangible and 'unverifiable' things (Cooren, 2018). Yet, once materialized, these abstractions can affect us in very tangible and consequential ways (Ashcraft et al., 2009).

Organizational scholars and practitioners alike thus tend to be caught in a double bind: We cannot just go back to a simple opposition between truth and non-truth, as we know that fiction and anticipation are also part of how we organize and act collectively. This conundrum calls for reconsidering the relationship between truths and non-truths in organizational settings, an issue that seems more salient today than ever – and invites us to consider our ethical responsibility as scholars. Accordingly, we welcome submissions that address the particular focus of this year's sub-theme through nuanced, careful, and creative explorations, studying the relationship between truth and non-truth, the performativity of the communication practices through which they are expressed, and how they constitute organizations and organizing. Below is an indicative (but not exhaustive) list of topics and questions suitable for this sub-theme.

- What roles do non-truths play in the creation, maintenance, or disruption of organizational realities? In other words, what are the (dis)organizing properties of communicating non-truths?
- How are truths performed, materialized, negotiated, or reconfigured as organizational actors make present and confront competing voices? For example, how are voices of



truth and non-truth opposed in organizational counter-acts and resistances, such as whistleblowing or activist work?

- How do silences – whether deliberate, strategic, or unintended – contribute to the emergence and persistence of (non-)truths in organizing?
- How do material artifacts, technologies, infrastructures, and so forth facilitate the creation and proliferation of (non-)truths in organizational settings?
- How do processes of legitimation change in a context where it has become increasingly difficult for societal observers to distinguish between truths and non-truths (Schoeneborn et al., 2024)?
- How do organizational (non-)truths evolve over time, and what makes some truths appear inevitable while others fade into irrelevance? How can an ethnography of texts reveal the ways in which (non-)truths are performatively reinforced or undone in organizations?
- In which ways are non-truth constructions altering how organizing is performed and comes to matter, for instance, in the form of ‘bullshit’ or by practicing ‘stupid’ or ‘ignorant’ ways of organizing (see Christensen et al., 2019; Knudsen et al., 2023)?
- What is the role of (non-)truths in driving organizing process in different contexts, such as in constituting digital and/or political movements, and how do they affect democratic will formation in public discourse (see Bennett & Livingston, 2020; Farkas & Schou, 2020)?
- When and how do organizational claims – such as commitments to diversity, sustainability, or ethics – function as non-performatives (Ahmed, 2006), maintaining the status quo rather than enacting real change?
- How can a communicative and performative perspectives help explore the ethical dimension of an orientation toward (non-)truths and (ir)rationalities in organizational contexts?
- What kind of organizations and society are we creating when truthfulness matters less? How can we, as researchers or as practitioners, advocate for organizations founded on truth – particularly in a world where anti-enlightenment tendencies are on the rise (see also Scherer et al., 2023)?

In addition to this, and in staying with the traditions of EGOS Standing Working Group (SWG) 06 on “Communication, Performativity, and Organization”, we also invite papers that are concerned with studying the relation between communication and organization from a performative and/or constitutive lens more generally.



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