Drinks and Debate: Revisiting the Spectacle in Organization Studies
A Party and a Call to Arms in the Face of Lies, Tricks and Media Spectacles – In Good Company

**When:**
Thursday, July 6, 17:30-19:00

**Where:**
Contact the organizers below

**Contact persons:**
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**Event description:**
A world where deceptions, illusions and distortions have taken center stage seems to be at odds with what a scholarly community like EGOS values and pursues. But rather than resign or shake our heads in dismay, it seems important that we get together, speak up and engage in what we do best. This social event invites for critical debate, drinks, and creative explorations of how we, as academics, can confront deceptions and spectacles through forms of intellectual activism, but also through forms of humor, art and comedy, in line with situationist thinking.

The backdrop to this party is a wish to celebrate Guy Debord’s influential book, The Society of the Spectacle, 50 years after it was published in 1967. His diagnosis of the colonization by images, lies, celebrities and distortions seems as relevant today: The boundaries between fact and fiction, reality and representation, substance and appearance are more blurred than ever.

To animate such debate, the event offers a series of short, creative interventions. This begins with a short introductory panel where Juliane Reinecke (Warwick Business School), Gazi Islam (Grenoble Ecole de Management) and Tim Kuhn (University of Colorado, Boulder) will explore different facets of the spectacle, moderated by Mikkel Flyverbom (Copenhagen Business School). We will show selected short extracts of Debord’s 1973 film “La Société du Spectacle”, contrasted with contemporary examples of media spectacles. Finally, there will be an “open-mic” session, which offers a creative and open-ended space for invited scholars and participants to reflect on, explore, name and articulate different facets of spectacles. Scholars offering short contributions to the “open-mic” include Ricardo Azambuja, Yoann Bazin, Itziar Castello, Jana Costas, Robin Holt, Maja Korica and others.

In line with the conference theme, this event explores the pressure spectacles place on ‘good’ organizations and free, democratic societies. These should be resilient and able to distinguish between what’s fake and what’s real, or at least uphold such distinctions. But fake news, the election of bogus president and ‘post truth’ politics all point to the need to reconsider fundamental questions about spectacles, realities and illusions. Also along the lines of the EGOS 2017 theme, this social event explores how a revisit to the concept of spectacles can ignite new ‘aspirations, interventions, struggles’ around these issues. The question is what we can still learn from Debord, and how extensions of his ideas are relevant for organization studies.

**Welcome!**